




DAVID VON ERICH: REFLECTIONS OF A FUTURE GREAT

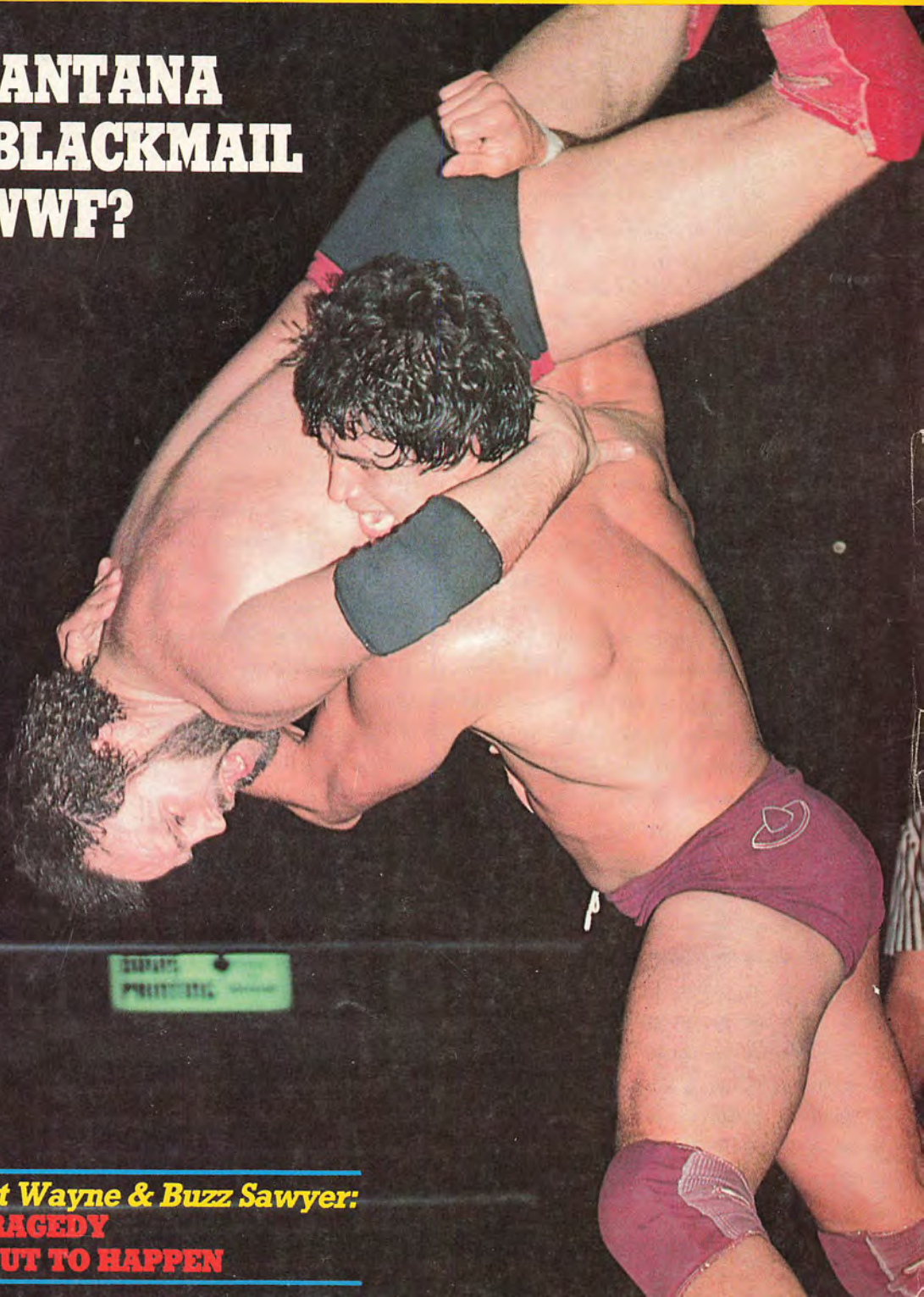
March 1984 47951  \$1.50

THE **Wrestler**

**IS TITO SANTANA
TRYING TO BLACKMAIL
THE WWF?**



HULK HOGAN:
"I AM
THE MAN WHO
FINISHED
HARLEY RACE!"



Brett Wayne & Buzz Sawyer:
**A TRAGEDY
ABOUT TO HAPPEN**



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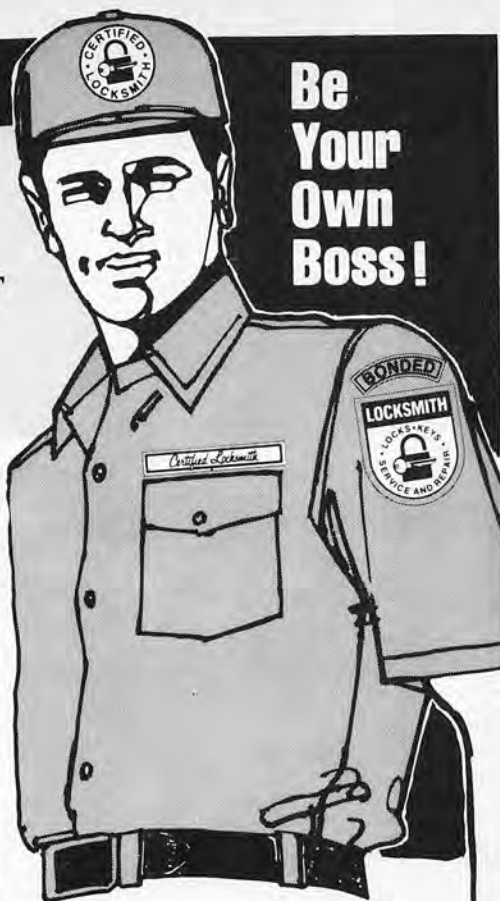
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Wrestler^{THE}

CONTENTS/MARCH 1984

6 YOUR LETTERS

Tears For The Wizard; Windham Not A Wimp; Stand Up, Ted

8 WHAT'S HAPPENING?

Senior Editor Bill Apter's monthly news update

10 CORRESPONDENTS REPORTS

Eyewitness coverage of the month's major matches

12 YOU ASKED US

Top stars answer YOUR questions

14 THUMBS UP, THUMBS DOWN

Cheers and jeers to those who deserve them most

18 INTRODUCING KRUSHER DARSOW

Profiling an up-and-coming star

22 Q & A

A timely interview with Dory Funk Jr.

26 X-RAY

Our panel of experts examines One Man Gang

28 SPOTLIGHT: PEDRO MORALES

The fiery superstar in a special *Wrestler* feature

30 BRETT WAYNE & BUZZ SAWYER:

A TRAGEDY ABOUT TO HAPPEN

Will they fall into the horrid pit of rulebreaking?

32 IS TITO SANTANA TRYING TO BLACKMAIL THE WWF?

Give him a title shot against Bob Backlund . . . or else!

34 HULK HOGAN:

"I AM THE MAN WHO FINISHED HARLEY RACE!"

Could Hogan have cost Race the NWA World title?

37 DAVID VON ERICH: REFLECTIONS OF A FUTURE GREAT

Many feel he's destined to hold a world title someday

40 HEENAN & BLASSIE WARN JIMMY HART:

JESSE VENTURA IS UNMANAGEABLE

"The Body" is too independent for his own good

43 RATINGS ANALYSIS

A dip into our mailbag

44 OFFICIAL WRESTLING RATINGS

The sport's most respected rankings

46 MATT BROCK'S LOOKING BACK

December 1981: Steve Keirn vs. Stan Lane

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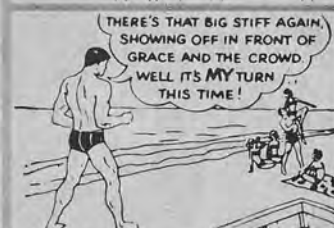


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TEARS FOR THE WIZARD

If you could have seen me. I almost broke out in tears. I still can't believe it. The "Manager of Champions," The Grand Wizard, is dead.

Ever since he guided Superstar Billy Graham to the WWF heavy-

weight title I have devoted my love for wrestling to this man. I respected The Grand Wizard for several reasons. He wasn't anything like that fat slob Lou Albano, or that pencil-necked geek Freddie Blassie. The Wizard never interfered in a match in his life; you

can't say the same for Albano and Blassie. The Wizard also had respect and love for his wrestlers; I've actually seen Blassie and Albano whipping and punching their wrestlers! The Wizard would never even think of doing such a thing. He was only interested in one thing: getting his wrestlers to the top and having them stay there.

The Grand Wizard was the best manager who ever lived. God rest his soul.

GARY KLEIN
West Orange, NJ

A SLANDEROUS ARTICLE?

I just read the trashy article in the January 1984 issue of *The Wrestler*, "The Road Warriors Mutilate Brett Wayne: And Where Was Ronnie Garvin?" If I were Mr. Garvin, I'd go after you for slander.

I've seen Garvin wrestle in Georgia, West Virginia, Pennsylvania, Ohio, Tennessee, and Michigan. I've *never* seen him pretend to be injured. If Garvin was down, it's because he couldn't get up. Wrestling is Ronnie Garvin's life—he loves it and he is the best. He's not frightened of The Road Warriors—I've seen

(Continued on page 56)



Beginning with the day in 1977 when The Grand Wizard managed Superstar Graham to the WWF championship, Gary Klein was a devoted admirer of the colorful manager.

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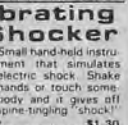
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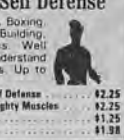
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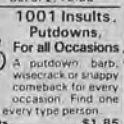
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durable. Works perfectly every time.
A2876. Squirt Seat... \$2.25



\$2.25

Deluxe Mini Lock Blade

Opens quickly and locks into position.
Prevents blade from snapping shut. Fine
quality steel is razor sharp and holds its
edge. Excellent for outdoor work, fishing,
hunting or emergencies. Only 5 1/2" open.
2 1/2" closed. 2 for \$5.95
2093. Mini Lock Blade



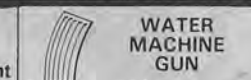
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Johnson Smith Company
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Since 1914
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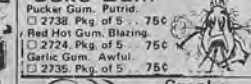
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Shoots hundreds of
fast into the sky. No
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No helium. All you need is
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Ready to fly. Just release & watch
it rise. Awe & amazement all who
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cord to which you can add additional
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Shoots over 100 rapid fire rounds. Up to
30 ft. range. Greatest advancement for
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5-oz. Pump action allows faster, harder
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About 10".
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Pucker Gum. Putrid.
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crackers. Inexpensive
clouds of smoke. Light
& with no heat to
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Sportsman's Lock-Back Knife
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safety lock to
prevent ac-
cidental
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ing.
7 1/2" open
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Razor sharp
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bolts. Beautifully finished.
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Convenient pocket size.
Includes free leather
sheath. If broken ever, we
replace free! Lifetime Guarantee
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Loop handle. Approx. 6 ft. long
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Folding Sports Glasses
Pocket size, collaps-
ible. 2 1/2" power. Sports
lens. For theater, sports,
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Beautifully chrome plated.
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Attractive gift box.
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Similar to knives used by Special Forces
Designed for toughest jobs. Use as knife,
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Thought there's plen-
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do you sometimes wonder where they are?
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"Smoke" From Your Fingertips
Hundreds of magic or joke
uses. Hands shown to be
empty, then suddenly
smoke appears from fin-
gertips! Do over & over.
No sleight, no manipula-
tion. Nothing is lit or burned. Invisible
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Pocket Spy Telescope
Powerful, yet fits pocket like pen. Magni-
fies several times. Original size. Brings dis-
tant objects closer. Attractive finish.
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Big Bang Fun Snaps
Real Bang Up
Fun! Squeeze
em! Toss
em! Step on
em! Great
BIG BANG!
Amazingly
loud, yet you
can pop them
between your fingers without harm. Box
of 50. Not sold in California.
72042. Fun Snap (2 boxes)... \$2.98

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All
Standard
Steel. Totally New
Design! Beautiful, yet
rugged cutting machine. Cre-
ated by skilled craftsman with unique, in-
ventive, practically indestructible blade.
Minuteman Super Sharp Yellow Guard
Stainless Blade. Safe finish stainless handle.
Lockback prevents accidental closing. Heavy
duty welded. 100% stainless. Saw & cut
for pocket. Lifetime warranty against
breakage. 4" Blade.
8073. Silver Bullet... \$5.98

1000 TINY MAGNETS

Fantastic fun bargain. Do tricks, stunts,
experiments. Arrange in millions of patterns.
Stick together with own power. Easy to
change. Each 1/8" x 1/16".
2008. 1000 Magnets... \$2.50

Motorized Submarine

Sturdy 7 1/2" plastic submarine cuts through
water powered by battery operated heavy-
duty underwater motor. Runs on pen-cell
battery. 5" motor is waterproof sealed,
with adjustable rubber & built-in switch.
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GIANT 8-Ft. High BALLOONS

Weather balloon
made of neoprene
rubber. Do enter-
taining stunts, ad-
vertising effects,
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24 ft. around. Can be seen for miles.
3010. 8 Ft. Balloon... \$8.98

Hilarious Talking Toilet
Causes un-
believable
commotion
at home or
at parties.
No more rest
in your rest
room! When
victim sits down "someone down there"
speaks out (LOUD & CLEAR) "Hey, can't
you see I'm working down here?" or other
funny comments followed by almost a
minute of raucous laughter. Attached or
removed in seconds. Attractive, completely
concealed sound unit that fits all toilets
and contains a number of funny sayings.
Operates on standard battery. Real surprise
for party poppers!
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LIVE SEA MONKEYS
Hatch entire family of excit-
ing pets in 5 minutes. Watch
them grow, play, etc. Easy
to care for. With your supply
of food, complete handbook of tricks.
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Brings them right to you.
Hand operated. 4290. Only \$2.98

Magnet Lifts 100 Pounds!

Lifts up to 100 Pounds SOLID
STEEL Tested & proven on
steel blocks. GO TREASURE
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1001 uses. Pocket size.
4005. Lifts 50 lbs. \$5.98
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Automatic Fly Zapper
Faster
than a
speed
of light
Swat
them
all!
More
power
than a
light
bulb
The leading light! Just pull the
trigger & zap the low down
critter. 3 1/2" hard hitting metal
mesh attached to spring ac-
tivated shroud with a line so
you can retrieve it and go
humming again.
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Black Soap

Washes them black &
looks like a
mole. A fun
expensive
joke! Soap.
But it ac-
tually turns
skin into volcanic special dye
that turns hands and face black
when used with water. A classic
clown fun prank that everyone
loves.
2419. Black Soap... \$1.75

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World Famous catalog of novelties, pranks, jokes, cloth patches, hobbies,
scientific supplies, fun makers, time makers, time savers,
photo & optical goods, jewelry, disguises, music items, stamps, coins,
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Talking Teeth

They, wait! They talk! They're
"alive"! Look like real set of false
teeth, then begin to open &
close, chatter & moving
powered by wind up spring
motor. Makes wonderful ac-
tress or party gift to those "ah-
by" people who you would like
to SHUT UP once a while.
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VENTRILOQUIST DUMMY

Exclusive
Import Bargain
Make Him Move.
Act Like-Like.
Seem To Talk.
Sing, Laugh.
Full length 16-inch dummy with control to operate mouth and move
head. No practice needed. "Talks" at once. Make him sit, stand,
even dance and act alive! Fully dressed in colorful tailored suit.
Molded plastic head. Movable arms and legs.
INCLUDED FREE: 5 Minute Lesson on How to Throw Your Voice
(With or without dummy). Fool friends as voices seem to
come from under bed, behind doors, etc.
6158. Archie The Dummy... \$2.98
6075. Dumbo The Clown... \$2.98

Black Soap

Washes them black &
looks like a
mole. A fun
expensive
joke! Soap.
But it ac-
tually turns
skin into volcanic special dye
that turns hands and face black
when used with water. A classic
clown fun prank that everyone
loves.
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6158. Archie The Dummy... \$2.98
6075. Dumbo The Clown... \$2.98

WHAT'S HAPPENING!



Before receiving medical attention, newly crowned NWA champion Ric Flair poses with promoter Jim Crockett.

Ric Flair regained the NWA World title from **Harley Race** on Thanksgiving evening in Greensboro, North Carolina. It was the first time in the sport's history that the NWA title changed hands in a steel cage.

The match took place in front of a standing room only crowd of 15,447 in the Greensboro Coliseum. An additional 30,000 fans throughout the Mid-Atlantic region viewed the match on closed-circuit television in their local arenas or movie theaters. The match was also viewed via closed-circuit in Puerto Rico,

Venezuela, New Zealand, and the Virgin Islands, though attendance figures from those areas was unavailable at press time.

Roughly 33 minutes into the match, Flair smashed Race in the head and stunned the champion. Flair climbed to the top rope and delivered a flying bodypress. At the 33:29 mark, special referee **Gene Kiniski** slammed the mat for the third time and declared Flair the new NWA World champion.

"I feel great about the win," Flair said during a postmatch press conference. "I'm ready to defend the belt against anyone reckless enough to challenge me, and I'm ready to make this title reign longer than my first. This is it, daddy, the NWA title has come home. *Whoo!*"

Our congratulations are extended to Flair, and to **Rick Steamboat** and **Jay Youngblood**, who captured the NWA World tag team belts from **Jack and Jerry Brisco** on the Flair-Race undercard.

Exclusive coverage of Ric Flair's historic win can be found in the April 1984 issue of



A dejected Harley Race declined to grant any interviews after losing the title to Flair in Greensboro.

our sister publication *Pro Wrestling Illustrated*, on sale January 24.

Mike Rotondo recently lost the Southern heavyweight title to **Ron Bass**, but the young star from Syracuse, New York, isn't allowing the loss to affect his enthusiasm and determination.

"The only reason I lost the belt to Bass," Rotondo said, "was because his manager, **James J. Dillon**, conned me into signing a contract for a Bunkhouse Match [Street Brawl]. I don't have a lot of ex-

(Continued on page 48)

EXCITING DIET BREAKTHROUGH!

Lose Pounds & Inches WHILE YOU SLEEP!

LIPOGENE-GH™—The OVERNIGHT DIET Sensation!

**NO MORE FAT!
NO MORE FLAB!
NO MORE CELLULITE!
NO MORE DIETING!**

FACT: LIPOGENE-GH™ IS NOT REALLY A "DIET" IN THE TRUE SENSE OF THE WORD. THIS POWERFUL, FAT EMULSIFIER ACTUALLY ATTACKS AND DISSOLVES UNSIGHTLY POCKETS OF EXCESS FATTY TISSUE AND DOES IT OVERNIGHT WHILE YOU SLEEP!

A DIET SO EASY EVEN YOU WON'T FAIL THIS TIME. NO CALORIE COUNTING, NOTHING TO MIX, NOTHING ELSE TO BUY, NO STRENUOUS EXERCISE, NO BORING FOODS, AND NO SUPERMARKET DIET MIRACLES—JUST TAKE LIPOGENE-GH™ AN HOUR BEFORE YOU GO TO BED AND WAKE UP THE FOLLOWING MORNING SLIMMER, TRIMMER AND BETTER LOOKING THAN YOU WERE THE NIGHT BEFORE. THERE IS NOTHING ELSE TO DO AND NO OTHER DIET TO BUY!

LIPOGENE-GH™ Is Finally Available!

The LIPOGENE-GH™ compound is so new, so revolutionary, it has the entire diet industry buzzing. Why? Because this incredible compound can make very ordinary "diets" obsolete. For the first time you don't have to diet to lose excess fat. You'll be thinner and your body will be firmer overnight!

How Can The LIPOGENE-GH™ Compound Be So Easy To Use Yet So Visibly Effective?

Doctors and scientists have known for many years that the release of the "GH FACTOR" is responsible for accelerated fat metabolism (the burning of fat for energy) and the production of youthful, firm muscle tissue. As we approach the 25 to 30 age bracket, the release of the "GH FACTOR" diminishes sharply. Research now believes this could be the single most important reason why after that age bracket you tend to gain weight (in the form of fat) much faster and keep it on a lot longer. To combat this fat buildup there is now this exclusive LIPOGENE-GH™ Formula.

P.S. When you are visiting Florida, we cordially invite you to stop by our offices and retail outlet to say hello and see what is being planned for future release.

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"Losing weight was never this easy before"

**LIPOGENE-GH™
WORKS FROM WITHIN
TO DISSOLVE FAT, OVERNIGHT!**

Amazing new breakthrough formula stimulates the release of "GH FACTOR" (growth hormone). Targets your body's "Fat Storage Pockets" and literally dissolves them while you sleep! Wake up slimmer, firmer and happier each and every morning! LIPOGENE-GH™ will do all this quickly and effectively or it costs you absolutely nothing.

LIPOGENE-GH™ Works While You Sleep!

The most incredible aspect of the LIPOGENE-GH™ compound is that it works while you sleep. The LIPOGENE-GH™ compound acts overnight to begin its biologic attack on pockets of stored, unsightly fat (you know where they are; around the waist, hips, buttocks, thighs and arms) literally burning them away AUTOMATICALLY! Now, all you need to do to shed unsightly pounds and inches is remember to take your LIPOGENE-GH™ tablet an hour or two before you go to bed at night. THAT IS IT! No more starvation diets, no more fad diets, no more foul-tasting powder diets, no more supermarket pills.

No More Exercise, No More Calorie Counting, No More Books, Suits or Supermarket Miracle Pills!

This "Non-Diet", superstrength, overnight fat emulsifier is so easy to use, so fool-proof that even you WILL NOT FAIL THIS TIME. Just think of it, if you can just remember to take your LIPOGENE-GH™ tablet about two hours before you go to bed, your diet problems will be over. You'll wake up thinner, healthier and looking much better than you did the night before—and that's guaranteed!

The Exclusive LIPOGENE-GH™ Compound Is Laboratory Certified.

In the next few months you will see more and more products that claim to be "GH FACTOR" activators. We at the Robertson-Taylor Company, a Division of Intra-Medic Formulations, Inc., want you to know that just because they may contain similar ingredients that does not necessarily mean they will work the same way. The basic raw materials are expensive to produce and must be prepared properly to stimulate the release of the "GH FACTOR". To ensure the proper amount and correct proportion necessary to activate the "GH FACTOR", order LIPOGENE-GH™ today! By no means are we suggesting that all other products in this new classification are worthless, but to be absolutely sure, order LIPOGENE-GH™, laboratory certified and guaranteed by the Robertson-Taylor Company.

UNCONDITIONAL MONEY BACK GUARANTEE!

As with all Robertson-Taylor Company's formulations, LIPOGENE-GH™ is covered by our no-nonsense money back guarantee. Our guarantee contains no fine print or misleading terms. Simply stated, if you use our fine LIPOGENE-GH™ fat eliminating compound and do not see incredible overnight results, return the empty container (we would like you to use all of this fine formula) for a full, prompt, no questions asked, total refund (including the \$2.00 shipping and handling). Again, let us restate if for any reason you are not totally satisfied with LIPOGENE-GH™, it will cost you absolutely nothing.

PRIORITY ORDER FORM!

YOU COULD HAVE LOST POUNDS OF EXCESS FAT WHILE YOU SLEPT IF YOU HAD BEEN TAKING LIPOGENE-GH™ BEFORE YOU WENT TO BED!

☐ LIPOGENE-GH™ 28 tablets (2 weeks) \$24.95
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NOTICE: DO NOT ACCEPT SUBSTITUTES OR LOOK ALIKES!

LIPOGENE-GH™ is a precise blend of free form amino acids. When taken before going to bed, LIPOGENE-GH™ will stimulate the release of "GH FACTOR" during the first few hours of sleep. You must understand that the release of the "GH FACTOR" will only occur when the combination of free form amino acids are in the correct proportions.

CORRESPONDENTS Reports

Huntington, West Virginia—Correspondent: Jim Treacy—The feature attraction at the Field House pitted National tag team champions The Road Warriors against Brett Wayne and what the fans were told would be a “mystery partner.” The mystery was solved when Wayne came to the ring with his brother, Buzz Sawyer. During a match the Huntington fans had seen on television weeks before, Wayne was attacked by the champions, Animal

If you would like your area of the country represented in these reports, while also being officially credited with your own by-line, send us reports of the matches you attend. You will have the thrill of seeing your name in an internationally known magazine while at the same time helping to improve the quality of wrestling in your area. So why not give it a try? You'll be glad you did!

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Correspondent Editor, Box 48,
Rockville Centre, N.Y. 11571.

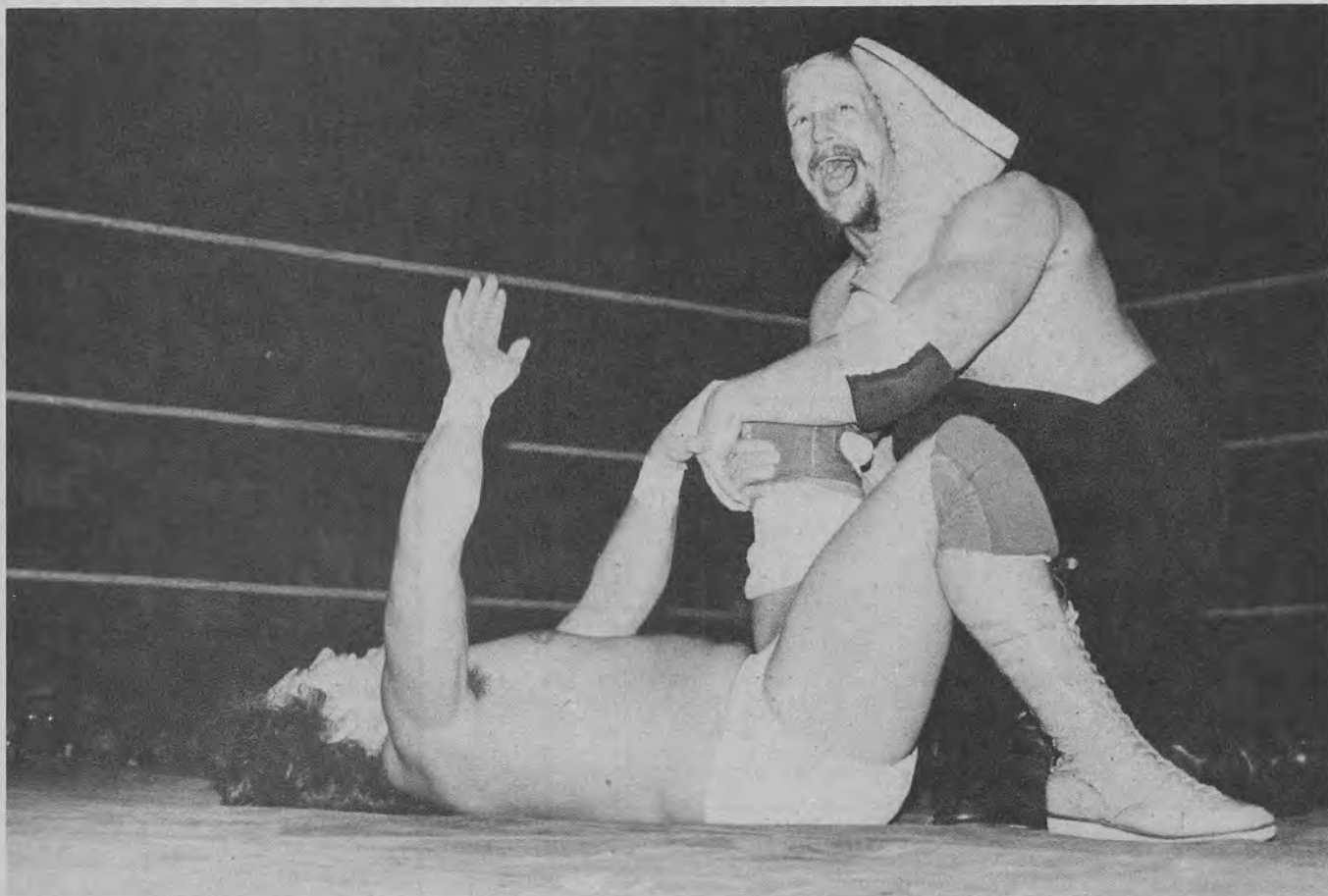
and Hawk. So the crowd was expecting a brutal grudge encounter.

The brothers cleared the ring with a hurricane of activity. The Road Warriors retaliated by overwhelming Brett and Buzz with their size and power.

A frenzied Sawyer threw referee Nick Patrick out of the ring and attacked both Animal and Hawk, biting their foreheads and opening large cuts. Patrick recovered from his fall out of the ring and disqualified Wayne and Sawyer. As the Road Warriors left the ring, Sawyer again attacked. The champions escaped, leaving their challengers in the ring.

In other bouts, Tommy Rich defeated Jake “The Snake” Roberts ... Ron Garvin drew with Les Thornton ... Paul Ellering beat Mr. Wrestling II ... Pistol Pez Whatley defeated Chief Joe Lightfoot.

(Continued on page 54)



Road Warrior Hawk lets out a sadistic cry of joy as he applies pressure to Brett Wayne's chronically injured left leg.

Now, Even If You Have Been Thin For Years, You Can

GAIN ^{UP TO} 5, 10, 15 POUNDS

without dangerous drugs, without exercise,
without unpleasant tasting medicines,
MEN—an impressive manly body,
WOMEN—a curvier, glamorous figure.

If you had started this amazing method just a few short weeks ago, right now you could be up to 5, 10, even 15 pounds heavier or more!

At last, no matter what you have tried, no matter what you have done, if you are a normally healthy person, you can gain up to 5, 10, 15 pounds or more safely, surely, pleasantly, and that's a guaranteed money-back fact.

Yes now, even if you have been thin for years, you can have the fuller, more attractive body you have always wanted without dangerous drugs, without heart-straining exercise, without unpleasant tasting medicines!

This exciting method is easy, pleasant, and medically sound beyond a shadow of a doubt, and your own Doctor could tell you the same thing.

HERE'S ALL YOU DO

Before meals, or whenever you feel like it, you take delicious, chewable, nutritionally fortified GAIN tablets and that's it! No other medication to take. Nothing difficult or unpleasant to do, and without even being aware of it, a wonderfully exciting change takes place.

Those high-calorie GAIN tablets are rich in body-building materials! They not only add weight themselves, but they sharpen your appetite! You look forward to meal-times, and without even realizing it, you start to eat more and almost immediately the weight gaining process begins!

As you follow your GAIN Plan which includes nutritional high calorie menus. You add pounds and inches to your arms, legs, chest, hips, everywhere. You'll be amazed at the fantastic transformation that occurs . . . as thin, unattractive areas start to develop into new magnetic appeal. You'll be

SKINNY MEN AND WOMEN ARE NOT ATTRACTIVE



. . . a skinny, scrawny body is no asset in social or business life. Give the GAIN Plan a chance to help build you up and put firm flesh on you.

thrilled to discover that as you gain weight you will have more pep and energy for all the wonderful things in life!

THINK OF WHAT THIS CAN MEAN TO YOU

If you are one of those unfortunate people who can't wear all the new high style clothes you want to wear . . . if you are ashamed of the way you look in a bathing suit . . . embarrassed because your legs are too thin and spindly . . . your chest is too flat . . . your arms aren't the full, rounded limbs they were meant to be . . . If you long for a more attractive-looking body, the safe, pleasant GAIN Plan can be the answer to your prayers!

Yes, now, with the GAIN Plan to help, it's so easy, so pleasant to add pounds and inches of firm, attractive flesh . . . so full-filling to feel better, stronger, more vital and alive! But don't take our word for it. Prove it to yourself at our risk!

If you sincerely want to gain weight, and to look better and feel better as a result,

HERE IS OUR OFFER . . .

We honestly believe the GAIN Plan to be the finest and most effective product of its type sold anywhere in the world today, and to prove our confidence, we are backing that statement up with this honest, straight-forward offer . . .

Try the fabulous new GAIN Plan in your

GAIN IS SAFE

GAIN is not a dangerous drug, medicine or a fishy-tasting oil. It is made of safe, pure ingredients, contains nothing which could possibly harm you, and may even be taken with complete safety by children.

MONEY-BACK GUARANTEE

Send for the GAIN Plan today. Try it for 7 days entirely at our risk. If, at the end of 7 days, you haven't started to gain pounds and inches and to look better and to feel better . . . If you aren't convinced the GAIN Plan is a safe, pleasant, way to gain weight, don't keep it! Return the empty bottle and get your money back immediately, no questions asked!

VITAL NOTE

A current issue of a famous medical journal reports on a recent government controlled study. This study, conducted over a 24 year period on 5,000 underweight and overweight men and women, proves that being underweight is as injurious to health and longevity as being overweight.

own home at our risk. Subject it to any test you like. Weigh yourself before you start. Weigh yourself later. If you haven't started to see substantial weight gain within 7 days, and if you don't feel better and look better as a result, or, if you are not completely satisfied for any reason, PAY NOTHING! It's just as simple as that.

If you are in doubt . . . even if you think nothing can possibly help you, for the sake of your appearance, and your happiness, at least try it! If the GAIN Plan works the way we know it will, you'll agree it is worth the few dollars it cost.

On the other hand, if it doesn't work the way you expected, it costs you nothing, and at least you have had the satisfaction of trying it at our expense.

What could be fairer than that? The next move is up to you. Once and for all, determine to do something about your underweight! We know you'll be happy you did.

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Please send my package of GAIN Plan immediately with the understanding that if I am not satisfied, I may have my money back, no questions asked.

- ☐ One GAIN PLAN for \$9.98
☐ SAVE \$2.00! Order 2 for \$17.96
☐ SAVE \$5.00! Order 3 for \$25.00

Enclosed is \$

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YOU ASKED US

Here's the monthly feature which YOU get to write! It's your chance to have a top wrestler answer YOUR question! Only the best questions will be answered—so put on your thinking caps and come up with some good ones! Address your questions—and who you would like to have answer them—to: YOU ASKED US, c/o THE WRESTLER, PO BOX 48, Rockville Centre, N.Y. 11571. Questions will be answered only in this column and at our discretion!



Mr. Wrestling II would find it difficult to wrestle Brett Wayne, whom he worked so hard to train.

Q: "I have a question for Mr. Wrestling II. You helped Brett Wayne prepare for the match where he beat Larry Zbyszko to win the National championship. Now that Brett is wearing the belt, would you consider getting in the ring against him?"—Joe DiVanza, Plainedge, NY

A: Mr. Wrestling II responds: "I don't think I could ever wrestle

Brett. I've had matches with other scientific wrestlers before, and those matches have been really exciting. Brett's a different story, though. I coached him in preparation for his match with Zbyszko. We became close friends in that time. I just couldn't bring myself to wrestle him."

Q: "My question is for Angelo Mosca Sr. I think his feud with Kevin Sullivan and The Purple Haze is taking up too much of his time. He's a great wrestler who should be going for titles instead of blood. Why is he wasting his time?"—Flora Harper, Greensboro, NC

A: "There are just some things that are more important than title belts, Flora," Mosca replied. "These men did a horrible thing when they attacked my son in Florida. In my book, family is more important than anything. I'm going to make them pay for all the pain they caused my son. They're going to find out what happens when you hurt one of the Moscas."

Q: "Please ask 'Boogie Woogie Man' Jimmy Valiant when he will be back in Georgia. I think he is great and I can't wait to see him again."—Melissa Jordon, Atlanta

A: "I had a great time down there in Atlanta," Valiant said. "It's a hoppin' town—great people and an exciting nightlife. The wrestling in Georgia is even more exciting. There's a lot of top wrestlers in Atlanta, and I'm always looking for competition. Maybe me and Pistol Pez [Whatley] can team up again. That was a lot of fun. Keep looking for me, Melissa. I'll be back as soon as I can."

Q: "My question is for World Championship Wrestling referee Nick Patrick. How do you feel about Texas referee David Manning winning the NWA Referee of the Year Award? I think you should have won the honor. I've



Nick Patrick (above) supports the NWA's choice in naming David Manning NWA Referee of the Year.

watched a lot of wrestling matches, and I think you are the best. Keep up the good work."—Lisa Kalinowski, Jenison, MI

A: "David Manning deserved the award this year," Patrick replied. "He should get it just as battle pay for refereeing all of

(Continued on page 50)

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Thumbs Up

Each issue, *The Wrestler* will praise the noteworthy and damn those who violate the honor of wrestling. The praiseworthy receive a Thumbs Up, the disgraceful are marked with a Thumbs Down. Here is this month's roll of honor and shame.



THUMBS UP to Mr. Wrestling II: Wrestling II has returned to the Mid-South region and is working with Terry "Magnum T.A." Allen. Allen was recently stripped of the North American championship for wrestling in an unsanctioned match. With Wrestling II's assistance, he hopes to regain the title currently held by Butch Reed. The masked star is not only a fine wrestler, but a fine teacher. During the past summer, Wrestling II coached Brett Wayne to the National heavyweight championship. Allen hopes that Wrestling II can work some of that same magic for him.



THUMBS UP to Pedro Morales: The former WWF heavyweight and Intercontinental champion was physically devastated two months ago in his native Puerto Rico when Bruiser Bob Sweetan broke his neck with a succession of piledrivers outside the ring. Morales has spent the last two months resting, receiving medical treatment, and working with a physical therapist. Despite warnings from his doctors, Pedro returned to the ring Thanksgiving night to wrestle Sweetan in a return grudge match. Although he risked his life in the match, his spirit and courage must be commended.



THUMBS UP to Junkyard Dog: The fans of Mid-South wrestling have consistently supported the Dog in his every endeavor, and the popular star has returned their support by rejecting offers to wrestle in other parts of the country. By staying in the Mid-South, Junkyard Dog seriously limits his opportunities to win a world championship. The NWA champion does not defend his title in that region, and the AWA champ appears in only one Mid-South city, Houston. Junkyard Dog refuses to leave his loving fans despite the offers he has received from other promoters. It is rare that a wrestler is as loyal to his fans as they are to him.



THUMBS UP to Tommy Rich: For years, Rich's feud with Buzz Sawyer had been the hottest in professional wrestling. Both wrestlers suffered serious injury in their violent feud. It was recently revealed that Sawyer was actually Brett Wayne's brother. When Wayne was legally prevented from wrestling with Sawyer against The Road Warriors, Rich offered to step in and wrestle alongside his former archrival. Rich could not possibly have totally trusted Sawyer, even though he is Wayne's brother. Rich wrestled with Sawyer anyway and his actions are a sign of his commitment to his friend, Brett Wayne. He deserves our praise.

Thumbs Down



THUMBS DOWN to Dusty Rhodes: Rhodes has disappointed many of his fans across the country by not challenging for the NWA World championship, instead becoming involved in one violent feud after another. In the latest of these feuds, Rhodes has joined forces with Blackjack Mulligan and Barry Windham to battle Gentleman Jim Holliday's men Abdullah the Butcher and Elijah Akeem and Kareem Muhammad. Rhodes' fans were delighted when he won the NWA title in 1979 and in 1981. Since then, Rhodes has destroyed his world rating and his health in bloody encounters with wrestling's madmen. It's time for Rhodes to stop being wrestling's enforcer.



THUMBS DOWN to Jules Strongbow: It was recently reported that Strongbow broke the leg of wrestler Mark Miller during a match by using the Indian Deathlock. Strongbow has not adopted a rulebreaker's wrestling attitude. He did not break Miller's leg on purpose. It is still reprehensible, however, that this happened. Strongbow should be experienced enough to know how much pressure to apply in executing the hold. Ignorance is no excuse for injuring of another wrestler.



THUMBS DOWN to Pat Patterson: Patterson has been trying to do two jobs—as a professional wrestler and as a television color commentator for the WWF. In his position on the WWF's *Championship Wrestling* and *All-Star Wrestling* telecasts, he is a working journalist. It is a conflict of interest for Patterson to be wrestling WWF competitors, including Ivan Koloff, with whom he is currently feuding. Patterson should reassess his options and decide which job he will pursue in the WWF, journalist or wrestler. Until he does, he will be cheating himself as well as the wrestling fans.



THUMBS DOWN to Paul Orndorff: Orndorff left the Georgia area early in 1983, and after a successful tour of Japan and the West Coast took some well-earned time off. Orndorff has now popped up in the WWF, but this Orndorff is radically different from the man who enjoyed so much success as the National champion. Orndorff seems to have turned into a pompous, image-conscious rulebreaker. We do not know what happened to this man while he was on vacation, but one can be sure that it had a major effect on his personality. We hope Orndorff returns to being the good-natured champion he once was.

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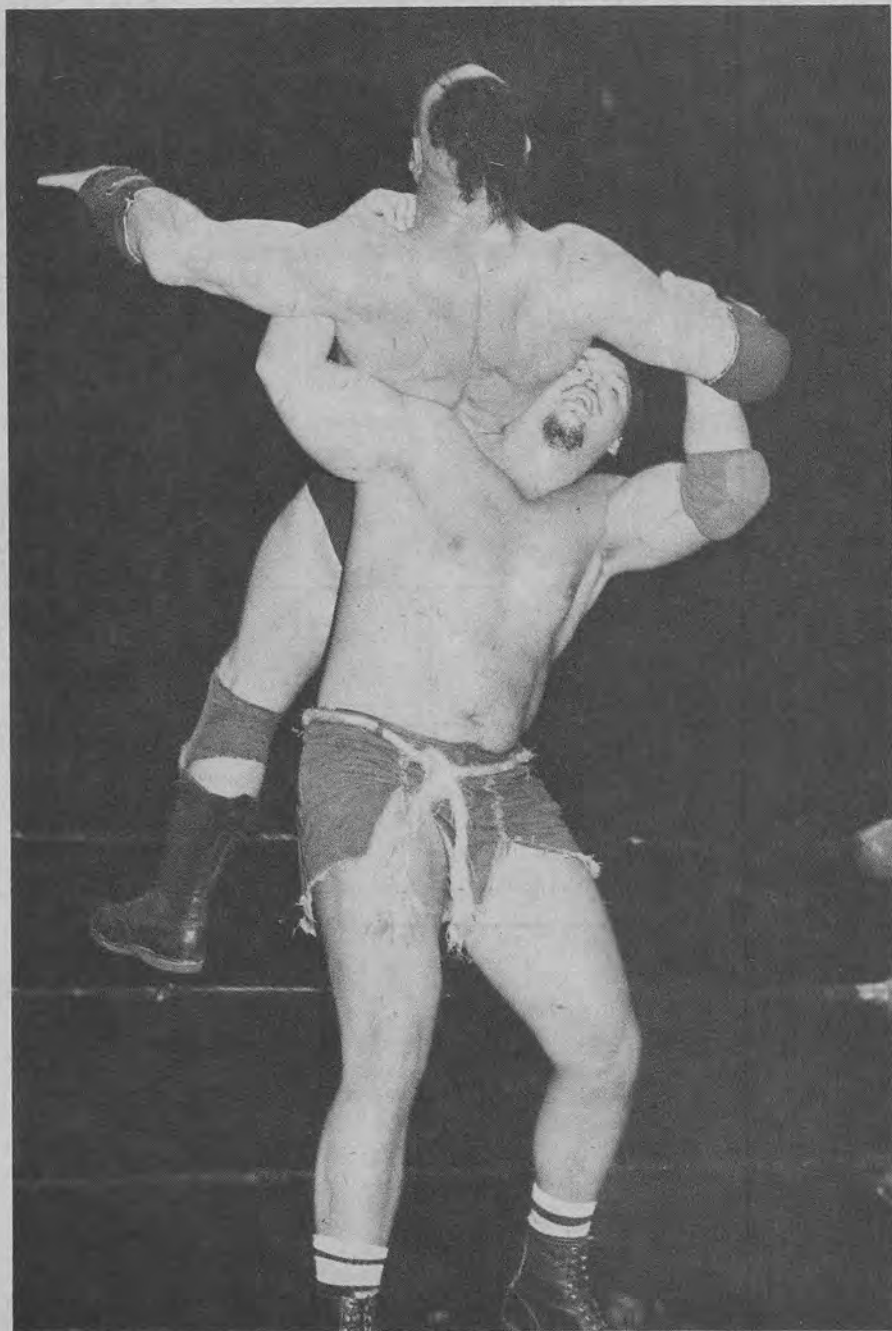
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INTRODUCING KRUSHER DARSOW

Krusher Darsow is a very lucky man. Very few of us actually get to fulfill our childhood dreams. This hulking giant from the Iowa farm country has managed to do just that. Wrestling in the professional ranks is a dream come true for this country boy, and he hopes to make the dream last for many years



“I’M NOT USED to all this attention,” Krusher Darsow said. “Back at home on my daddy’s farm in Iowa, the closest I ever got to getting my name in a wrestling magazine was when I filled out the coupon for back issues.”

Darsow, a new arrival to the Mid-South region, will have to get used to the attention, the hounding photographers, the fans requesting autographs, and the cheers of the crowds that watch him wrestle. “I think I’ll probably get used to all that pretty fast,” he said with a smile.

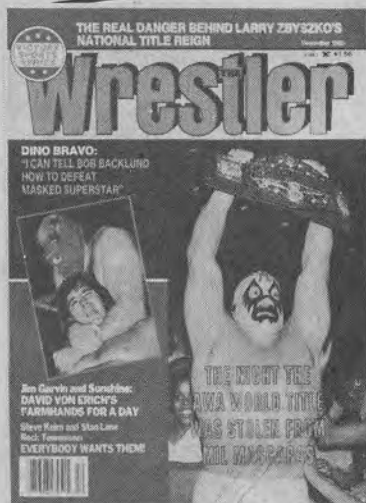
These are all things Darsow has been dreaming of since he was a child. Wrestling was his first and only love while growing up in Iowa. And living near two universities that were amateur wrestling powerhouses, Iowa and Iowa State, added to Darsow’s fascination with the technical aspects of the sport.

“When I was a kid,” he said, “it looked like a puzzle. The two guys’ bodies were always interlocked. When one guy was on top of the other and he had his opponents shoulders pinned to the mat, the puzzle was complete. That’s still the way I look at the sport.”

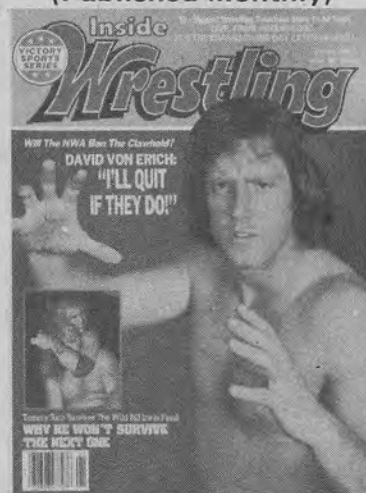
Darsow wrestled with an amateur
(Continued on page 20)

The powerfully built Krusher Darsow applies a reverse backbreaker on Max, the Missing Link.

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KRUSHER DARSOW

(Continued from page 18)

club and later competed in high school. He said that attending Iowa and Iowa State wrestling meets helped his performance. "The first few times," he said, "I had to beg Dad to take me, but after a while, when he saw how happy I was to go, he didn't put up too much of a fuss. We'd just jump into the pick-up and go."

At 303 pounds, Darsow qualifies as a superheavyweight, but his idol was an even bigger man, former Olympic bronze medalist and top-ranked professional Chris Taylor, who died in June of 1979. Darsow identified with Taylor, an Iowa State graduate, because of his size.

"I was always the biggest guy in the class," he said. "It made me feel clumsy sometimes. But I saw Chris, and he moved really well. He was so smooth. He made me realize that I wasn't a gawk just because of my size."

"I could tell you anything you want to know about Chris," Darsow said, about to spout off his idol's accomplishments. "Olympic bronze medalist in 1972, National Collegiate champion in 1972 and 1973, leading his team to the National title both years, unbeaten in 87 matches at Iowa State, pinned 70 of those opponents. . . ."

Darsow got to meet Taylor once. He forced his father to stand in the cold outside the Iowa State gym for an hour to meet his idol. "It was worth it," Krusher said. "I told him that I was his biggest fan, and he looked down at me and smiled. I told him that he could be world champion if he turned pro. He laughed a little and thanked me."

Darsow remembers being extremely upset when Taylor died after battling various illnesses for two years. "He only wrestled pro for four years," Darsow said. "He could have had a great career. I'm sure he could have won a world championship. He was the best."



Max resigns himself to the fact that is going to be powerslammed by one of the toughest young grapplers around (above). The Krusher flings Max to the mat (below).



It's too bad he died. It would have been great if I could have wrestled with him. When I win the world title, I'll dedicate it to him."

The championship is still a long way off for Darsow, but his potential is quite obvious to Mid-South fans and wrestlers. Among them is Junkyard Dog. "He is gonna be someone to be reckoned with," JYD said. "He's big, he's quick, and he has all the natural gifts you could hope for. If he keeps working, he'll be right up there with the best someday. He might look like a down-home country boy with those ripped up jeans he wears into the ring and all, but he's got a brain, and he uses it. He's still got that farm-boy power, too. He's as strong as an ox."

Power is one of the gifts that Darsow uses to the maximum. In a recent match against Max, the Missing Link, Darsow stunned his opponent with ferocious bodyslams and finished him with a backbreaker. "I love using my power," Darsow said, "pushing my strength to its furthest point. It's the same way in the gym. I like that feeling a lot."

One of the goals Darsow has set for himself is to win the North American championship. His friend Junkyard Dog has held that title on many occasions, and undoubtedly would like to wear the belt again. Darsow said he would welcome an opportunity to wrestle the Dog for that title.

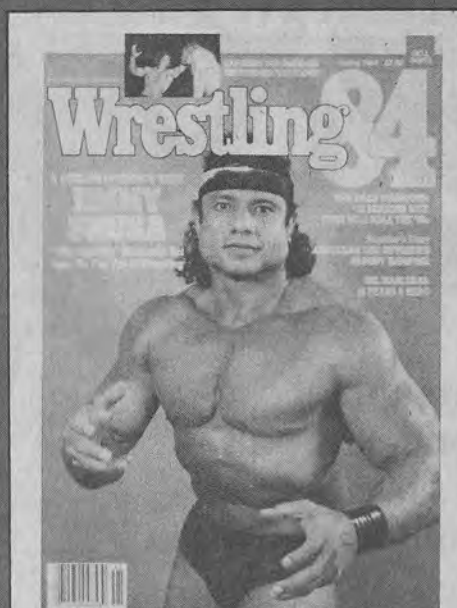
"These things are gonna happen," he said. "You can't let anything stand in the way of your goals, not even a friend. I think a match between myself and Junkyard Dog would be really interesting. I know we'd both be trying our hardest. Just 'cause we're friends doesn't mean we'd hold anything back. I'd put my all into that match. With a title belt up for grabs, anything goes." □

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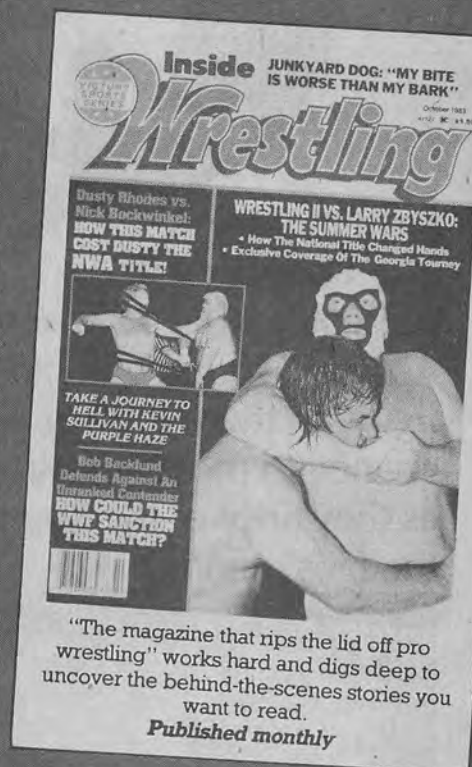
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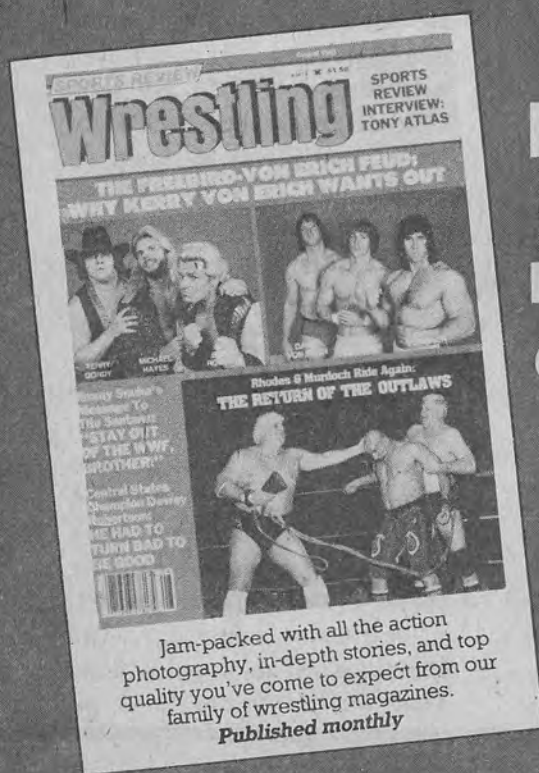


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Q&A

Each month, *The Wrestler* will present a "Question and Answer" forum with an important figure in the wrestling world. It is your chance to meet wrestling's biggest stars as they answer the questions uppermost in the fans' minds



Funk controls the action against Mike Rotondo, while wrestling for Paul Jones in the Mid-Atlantic last May.

Q: Could you recount the events that led to your leaving the Paul Jones stable?

A: The Paul Jones stable? That's the overstatement of the century. A couple of fat guys who wear masks constitute a stable?

Q: Maybe that was a poor choice of words.

A: I understand what you're asking, though. What happened is this: I decided that I wasn't gonna let Jones' twisted theories of wrestling get in my way anymore.

Q: In other words, his management was hindering your career.

A: In other words, he was a jerk! He would come up with some ridiculous ideas. I don't even want to go into them. Anyway, I didn't get the belt back from Rufus, and it was his fault. So I told him, I said, "Listen, your way isn't working. Next time, we try it my way."

Q: What was his response to that?

A: You're not gonna believe this. He said, "I'm your manager, and you're gonna do what I tell you." Can you believe it? I'm a former NWA World champion. I don't have to listen to anyone. What did Paul Jones ever do in his career? He couldn't hack it as a wrestler, so he became a manager. And I'm supposed to listen to him? That was an insult. So I hit



DORY FUNK JR.

DORY FUNK JR. has broken his ties with manager Paul Jones, and he now finds himself on the same side as many of the Mid-Atlantic fan favorites with whom he has feuded for years. Tensions between Funk and Jones began shortly after Funk lost the Mid-Atlantic championship to Rufus R. Jones last August. Funk was unsuccessful in his many attempts to regain the belt, and Jones publicly claimed that Dory could have won the title back simply by following his instructions. Funk countered that by saying that it was precisely Jones' instructions that caused him to lose the title in the first place. *The Wrestler* spoke to Funk about the breakup with Jones, his plans for retribution, and his new allies.

him. I thought maybe I could knock some sense into him. I should have known it wouldn't work. Sense couldn't penetrate that thick skull of his.

Q: And then later that night . . .

A: The Assassins . . .

Q: The fat men with the masks?

A: Yeah. Where does Jones have any business managing anybody



Jones draws an automatic disqualification for his wrestler by interfering in the Rotondo match.

but me, anyway? I'm a former NWA champ. I deserve a manager's undivided attention. He was paying more attention to them than me. They were a distraction. He was making mistakes all over the place. My contracts were a mess.

Q: So Jones was out at the ring



While Funk wore the Mid-Atlantic championship belt, his relationship with Jones ran smoothly. After Funk lost to Rufus R. Jones, however, things came apart quickly.



with The Assassins. What happened in that match?

A: He had them wrestling Bugsy McGraw and that Youngblood kid—Mark Youngblood, Jay's brother. As usual, Jones is getting his cheap shots in. He tripped Mark as he came off the ropes. I was fed up with

that fool. I went out to the ring and I told the ref what happened. While I was out there, I thought I might as well get some revenge. So I tripped one of The Assassins. I guess Paul was a little upset by that, huh? He got those slobs to attack me. It was two on one, and, of

course, he was getting his cheap shots in as well.

Q: Were you surprised when McGraw and Youngblood came to your aid?

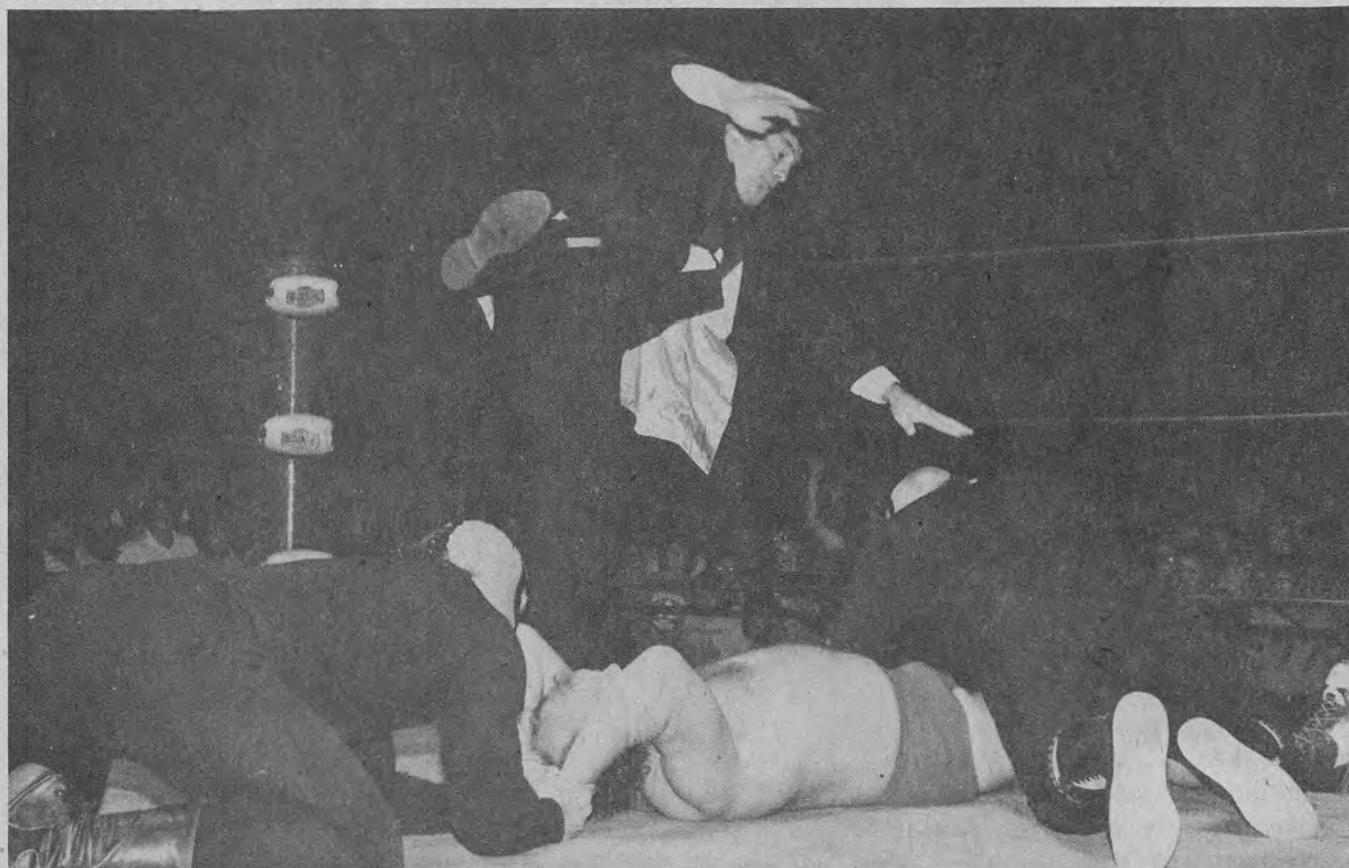
A: A little, at first. But, you know, actions speak pretty loud. They saw what I did, and I guess they figured out that there was something going on. Even if I wasn't exactly on their side, I wasn't the opposition. They came to my rescue, like the Minutemen.

Q: What's next?

A: Well, I figure it this way: If Paul Jones is such a great wrestling strategist, if he has such an incredible mind, maybe he wouldn't mind putting on a pair of tights and making his return to the ring against me. I'd like for him to show me everything I'm doing wrong in there.

Q: What would you do in a match against Paul Jones?

A: I'd whup his hide from here to Amarillo and back.



Assassin #1 accuses Funk of not being loyal to manager Jones (top). The Assassins hold Dory to the mat as Jones goes on the attack (above).



Funk's campaign against Jack Brisco and other Mid-Atlantic rulebreakers has drawn mixed reactions from the fans.

O: What about the fans?

A: What about them?

Q: Are you looking for their acceptance?

A: A professional doesn't think about things like that. I can't waste the time. I can't do things specifically to please the fans. The fans know what they like. If they like watching Paul Jones crumble, well, then I guess they'll be on my side.

Q: You've been feuding with all the Mid-Atlantic fan favorites for a long time. Do you think they'll be so willing to accept you? Will they trust you?

A: I don't know. I've been having trouble finding a tag team partner. I want to show Jones how bad that tag team he's wasting his time on really is. I've asked Rick Steamboat, Ric Flair, and Jay Youngblood, but no one has given me an answer yet. I don't blame them. We're not gonna be great friends right off, but in time? Maybe. I can't expect them to trust me. How are they supposed to know if I'm on the up-and-up. Maybe they think that this is a setup. They're professionals. They're cautious, and they have good reason to be. I just have to be patient. ☐

COMING JANUARY 31 . . .



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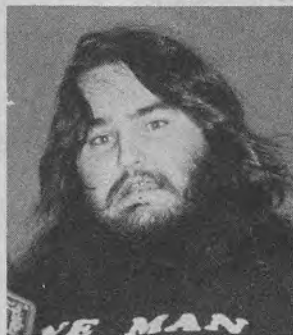
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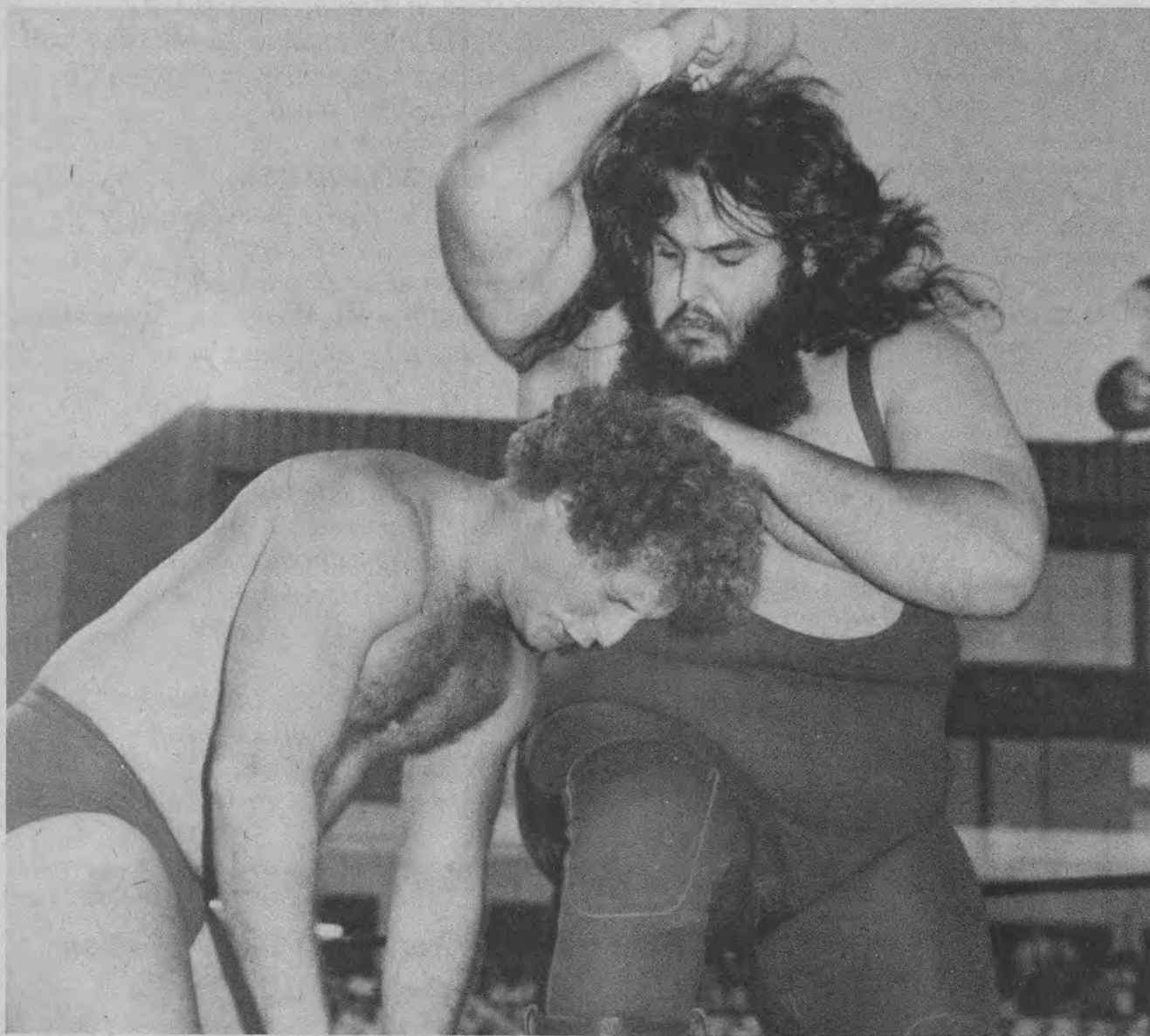
The Best Keeps Getting Better!

THE WRESTLER PANEL EXAMINES



ONE MAN GANG

Each month
THE WRESTLER'S panel of experts
will offer their candid opinions of one
of wrestling's stars. Whether an up-and-coming
youngster or an established superstar in his own right,
our panel will always be frank and honest without fear of reprisal



One Man Gang puts 402 pounds of force behind an elbowsmash against Mike Davis. For the most part, the "X-Ray" panelists agree that OMG is a powerful, aggressive man who has been highly successful despite lacking the basic skills of scientific wrestling.



BRUNO SAMMARTINO

"You know, I cannot believe this One Man Gang. Doggone it, if you're going to be a professional wrestler, get yourself in shape. I think this man does all his training at the dinner table. He is grossly out of shape. He has no technical wrestling skill. The only effective maneuver he has is the big splash. He's slow. Someone should teach some wrestling holds. It might break up the monotony for him."

Bruno Sammartino is known as wrestling's "Living Legend." He is considered the finest wrestler to ever hold the WWF title.



VERNE GAGNE

"There are a lot of people who think that just because they're big and they like to beat people up, they can be professional wrestlers. I think every one of those people should look at One Man Gang and reconsider. This man is not a wrestler. Andre the Giant is a wrestler. Despite his size, Andre took the time—and it was long time—to learn how to wrestle. One Man Gang is big and strong, but he's still got a lot to learn."

Verne Gagne held the AWA World title a record 11 times. He was recently voted "Best Scientific Wrestler" of the last 25 years.



GENE KINISKI

"Here's a guy who might not be the most mentally gifted individual in the world. He does have a few things that make him perfect for this sport, however. He's a big son of a gun, and he isn't afraid to throw his weight around. He's mean. He's got emotion going for him. If he could find a way to become impervious to pain, he'd have it made. So he's a brawler. Does everyone have to be Verne Gagne? I bet Gagne talked him down, huh."

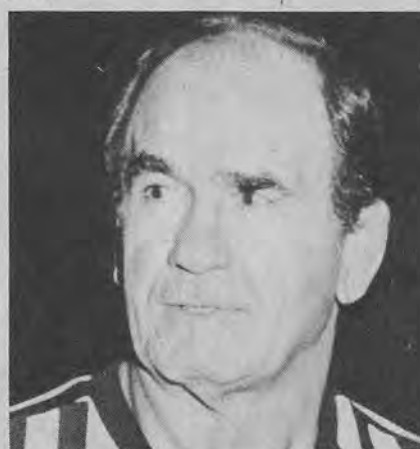
Gene Kiniski is a rugged Canadian who was NWA World champion in the late 1960s.



BUDDY ROGERS

"I can't say that One Man Gang won't become a successful wrestler, because he has already had his share of success in professional wrestling. He reminds me of John Studd, only Studd is in better physical condition. If this guy really wants to make it in this sport, he's gonna have to train a lot harder and do something more than punch and kick his opponents. He's still a streetfighter. He's not a wrestler ... yet."

Buddy Rogers is the only man to hold the NWA World and WWF titles. He is currently a wrestling manager and a television commentator.



LOU THESZ

"He's just a mountain waiting to be climbed. I know how I would wrestle this One Man Gang, I'd just keep hitting him with dropkicks until he fell down. Once he's down, he's yours. The guy is slow. He could hurt you if you let him catch up to you, but he can't catch you, so you're in the clear. What you have to do against him is dart in and out, get your shots off, and stay away from him until he tires out."

Lou Thesz held the NWA World title six times during his fabulous 50-year career. Many consider him the greatest all-round wrestler in history.



EDDIE GRAHAM

"This man has just come into Florida, and I'll tell you, I don't care that he's out of shape, or that he's doesn't have great technical skill. All I know is that the man is dangerous. He isn't a great wrestler. He's not a wrestler at all. He's big, he's mean, and he has the ability to hurt anyone at any time. Men like him are a threat to the sport, but as long as One Man Gang is given a license to wrestle, we'll have to deal with him."

Eddie Graham is a former co-holder of the World tag team title, and was a top contender for the NWA World title.

SPOT ★LIGHTS...

From time to time, *The Wrestler* will shine its spotlight on an outstanding wrestler, manager, or tag team. These are unforgettable highlights of the sport's greatest stars, compiled by the largest staff of editors and photographers in wrestling journalism

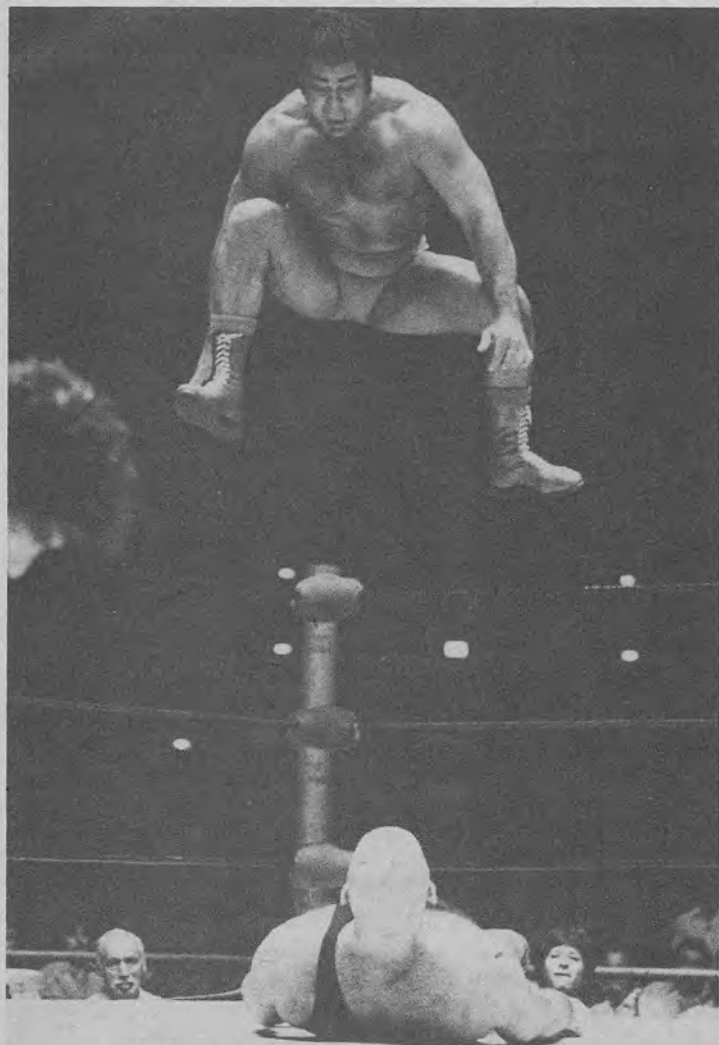
PEDRO MORALES

Pedro Morales has enjoyed success in singles and tag team competition in almost every part of the country, as well as in Europe and the Far East. He is the most successful wrestler ever to come

from his native Puerto Rico.

Morales celebrated the ultimate glory on February 8, 1971, when he defeated Ivan Koloff in Madison Square Garden to win the WWF championship. In the 2

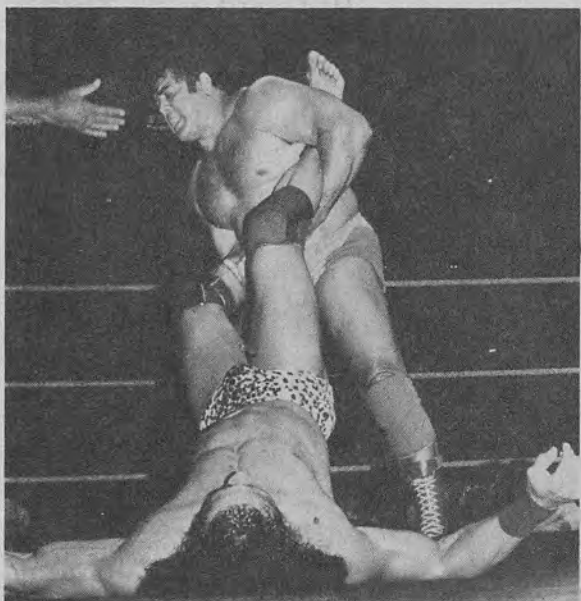
years and 10 months he held that title before losing it to Stan Stasiak on December 1, 1973, in the Philadelphia Arena, he defended the belt with honor against the superstars of the mat



Left: Pedro Morales leaps from the top rope in his WWF title-winning effort against Ivan Koloff in 1971. Above: In one of the all-time classics, Pedro battles Bruno Sammartino at Shea Stadium in 1972.



Left: Pedro puts his foot down against Ken Patera. Above: A stunned Magnificent Muraco absorbs the patented Morales left hook. Bottom left: Pedro turns the Boston crab on Jimmy Snuka. Below: Morales makes a WWF title defense against Ric Flair last September.



sport.

Ironically, the crowning achievement of Morales' career was not a victory but a draw with the greatest WWF champion of all time. "Living Legend" Bruno Sammartino and Morales battled to a 75-minute standoff in front of 22,508 fans in New York's Shea Stadium. It is considered the greatest scientific contest of all time.

Morales has also held the

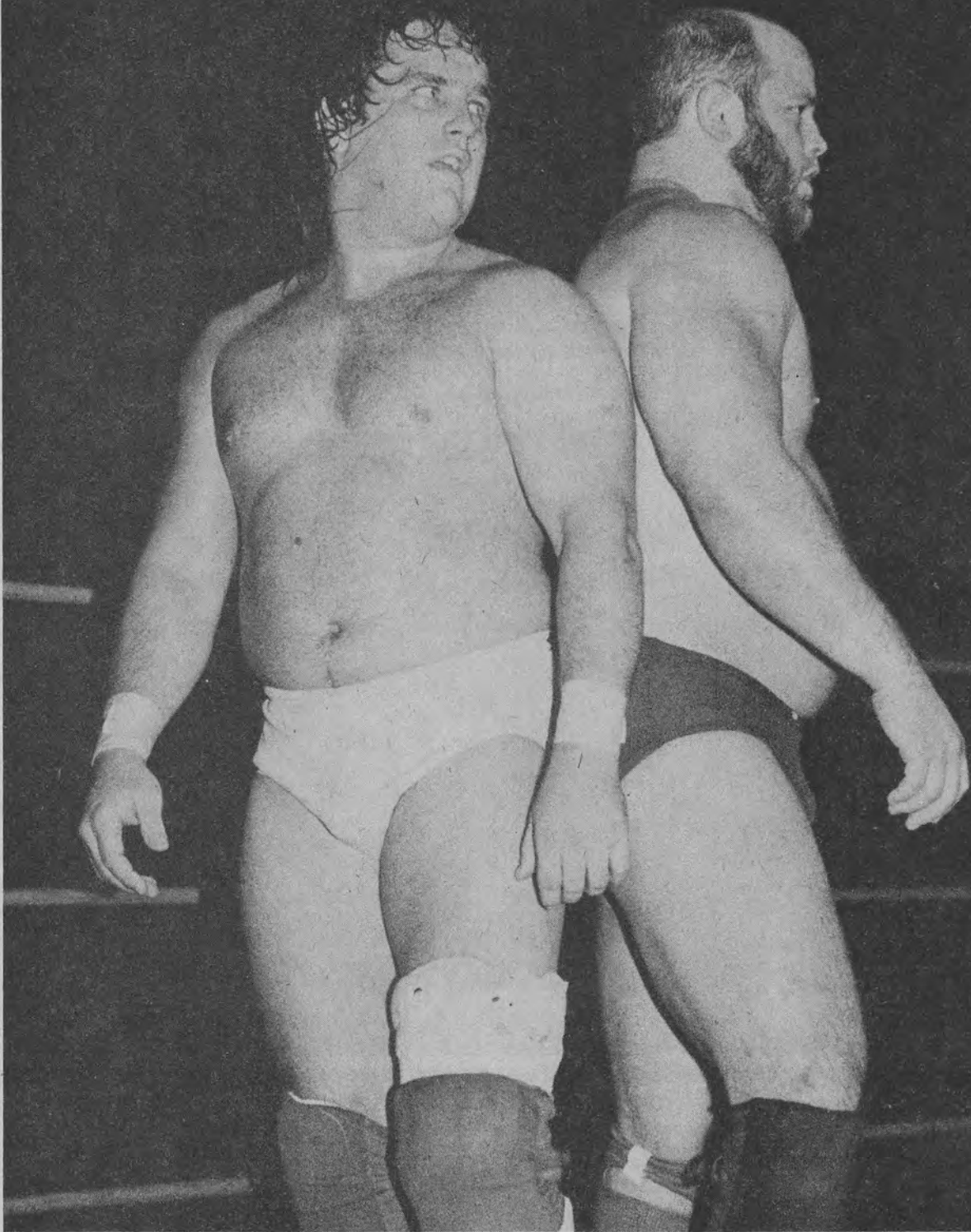
WWF Intercontinental championship twice. He has held the title, established in September 1979, for a year and eight months in total, longer than any other Intercontinental champion.

Morales is currently wrestling in his native Puerto Rico and is engaged in a feud with Bruiser Bob Sweetan. In a match last September, Sweetan piledrived Morales outside the ring, severely injuring his neck. Morales under-

went two months of physical therapy before returning to action on Thanksgiving night. In typical fiery Morales fashion, Pedro took on Sweetan as his first opponent on his return to wrestling.

Morales has enjoyed the view from the pinnacle of the sport as WWF champion. His legion of admiring fans hope to see him return to that plateau very soon. □

Brett Wayne & Buzz Sawyer



A TRAGEDY ABOUT TO HAPPEN



During a nationally televised match, Buzz Sawyer intervenes on behalf of Brett Wayne, who is being savaged by Jake Roberts (above). After this incident, the world would know that Buzz and Brett were brothers (right).

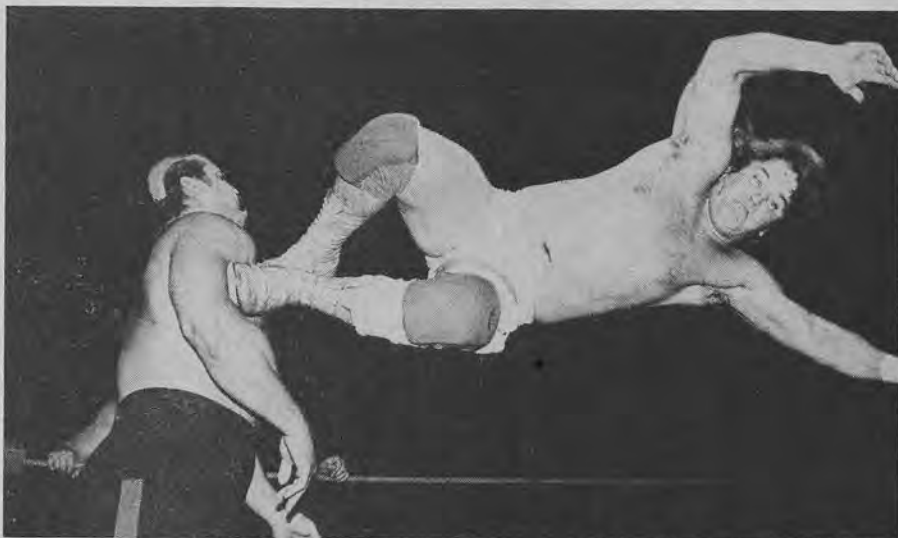


Outwardly, the teaming of brothers Brett Wayne and Buzz Sawyer seems to be the best thing that ever happened to either man. The sad truth is that though this is what they both wanted, the potential for tragedy is so great that it may destroy them!

IT WAS POSSIBLE to keep his temper no longer. Brett Wayne exploded, "Look, I'm not an idiot! I know the risks! There are some things, pal, that are worth the risks!"

The reporter turned off his tape recorder and began getting ready to go. Wayne suddenly said, "Wait! Please. I didn't mean to blow up at you. I thought if I pretended there's nothing wrong, maybe everyone would believe it. I got angry when I realized how stupid the pretending sounded. I think it's time for this interview to begin."

What had preceded the outburst hadn't been pleasant for anybody. The reporter kept asking if Wayne was aware of any risks since he teamed up with his brother, Buzz Sawyer. Wayne denied he saw any trouble. Then the reporter started ticking off the possibilities, a catalog of risks that has begun to worry the best people in wrestling. Brett tried to ignore these circumstances and felt like a fool doing it. When he could no longer justify what he was saying, he started shouting. And then he decided to publicly face the truth.



Road Warrior Animal throws out his chest in defiance of Wayne's flying dropkick. Both Brett and his brother know that the Warriors, being under the guidance of Paul Ellering, will be especially tough on them.

"I knew the risks coming in," he admitted. "Being Buzz's brother was never easy. I had to change my name before people would trust me. I can see even in my best friends a certain wariness. I was training with Tommy Rich one day and suddenly he stopped [this was during the time when Tommy and Buzz were still feuding]. Tommy's face clouded over. Then he resumed, or at least tried to. I finally asked him what happened and he said, 'You moved just like Buzz,' as

if that was some mark of disgrace. It was as if that was a sure sign I would betray him.

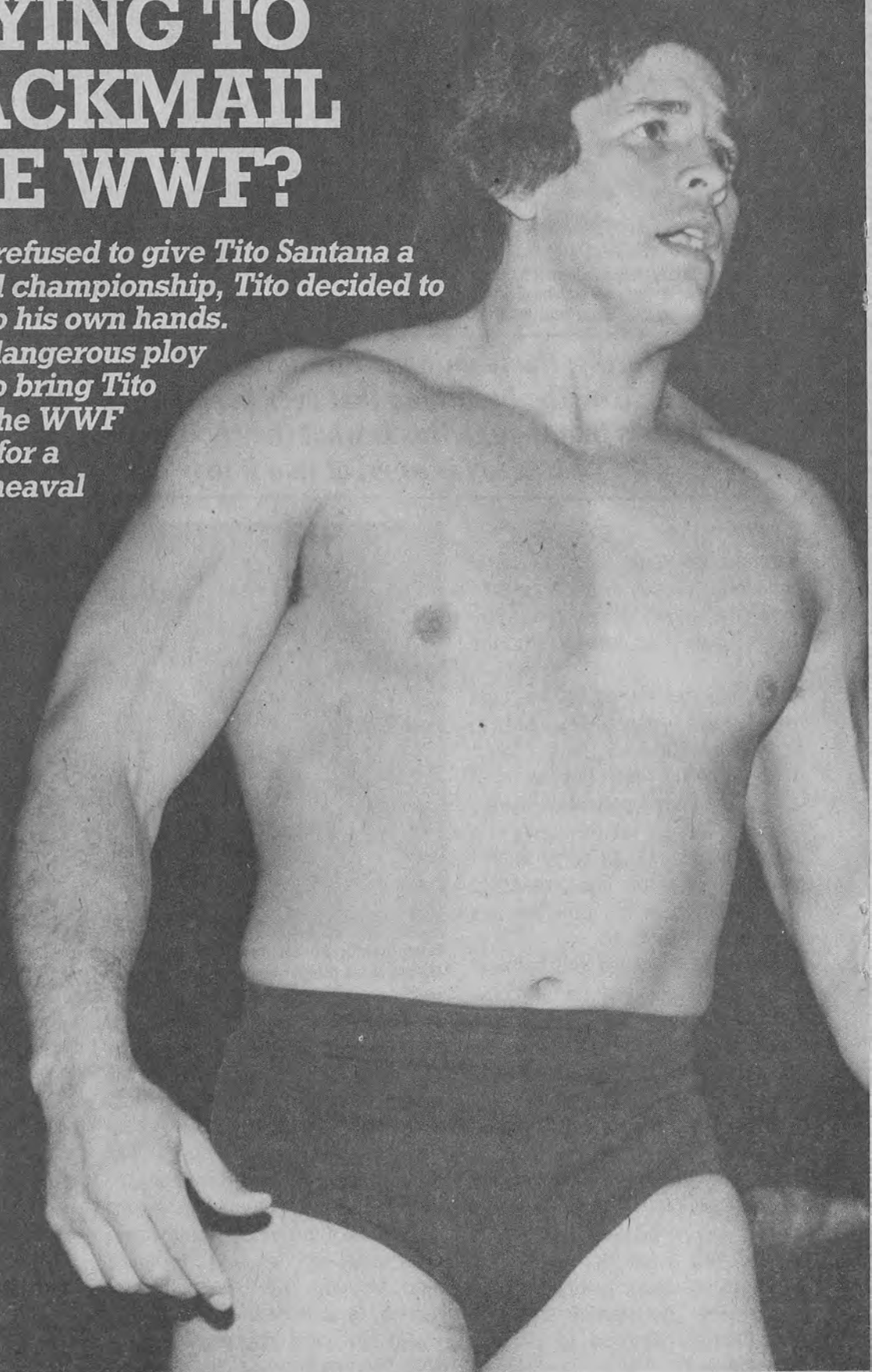
"Even now, with Buzz firmly in the camp of fan favorites, there are people who find it hard to trust me anymore. As for Buzz, it'll take years before they're comfortable with him.

"This makes choosing any other tag team partner but Buzz pretty risky. You have to trust your tag team partner completely. He has to
(Continued on page 62)

IS TITO SANTANA TRYING TO BLACKMAIL THE WWF?

After the WWF refused to give Tito Santana a shot at the world championship, Tito decided to take matters into his own hands.

A brilliant and dangerous ploy is either going to bring Tito his title shot or the WWF itself may be in for a cataclysmic upheaval



SOME PEOPLE ARE angry. Others deny it's true. Still others wish they thought of it themselves.

First, let's recite the facts. Tito Santana journeyed to the WWF and became remarkably popular. Fans thronged to his matches. He was a credit to the federation. All he lacked was a title shot to make his stay complete. But as other fan favorites could have told him, he had no chance to be completely happy.

The WWF refuses to let champion Bob Backlund wrestle fan favorites. The champion is given a solid diet of rulebreakers. Even Jimmy Snuka, arguably the most popular wrestler in the WWF in a decade, can't get a title shot since aligning himself with scientific principles. Santana tried to get a title shot. Rumor has it that even Backlund asked if a match could be arranged, but no challenge was

forthcoming. Like so many WWF scientific wrestlers before him, Santana found himself stranded in front of the no-title-shot roadblock.

Like any good wrestler, Tito is an ambitious man. If he can't go for the ultimate prize, he will lose his edge. Slowly but surely, his skills will go dull and his desire will shrivel. That's death for a wrestler. Surely, Tito has heard the theories discussed and wondered for himself. He must have also wondered if the same theories apply to any scientific wrestler in the WWF.

At the same time, WWF officials want Santana around. They look at the packed houses he draws and know he's a valuable commodity. Except for giving him a title shot, they've done everything in their power to make him happy. As with other scientific wrestlers, they never seem to realize the only thing that can make a proud athlete happy is a title shot. That's why they were



Before Burke can get to the top of the turnbuckles, Santana brings him into the ring the hard way.

so surprised when Santana boarded a jet for Toronto.

In Toronto, Santana issued a challenge to Leo Burke for the Canadian North American title. Burke, not being a fool, insisted their bout had to be a non-title match. Santana readily agreed. In fact, he agreed so quickly that Burke began to think Tito wanted a non-title match all along. Burke never got over the feeling that he was set up.

The night of the match, Santana looked like a kid let loose in a candy store. He put on a glorious exhibition of wrestling virtuosity. Burke, already slowed down by suspicions, never had a chance. One got the feeling Leo kept waiting for a brigade to rush down the aisles and attack him. After a few minutes, Burke could easily have considered Santana a one-man brigade. After Santana executed a perfect flying bodypress, the match was over.

Those are the facts. Now comes the theories. Many people believe Santana took the Toronto match as a warning to the WWF. If they fail to give him a title shot against Backlund, Tito is ready and able to travel. He proved he could defeat the Canadian North American
(Continued on page 64)

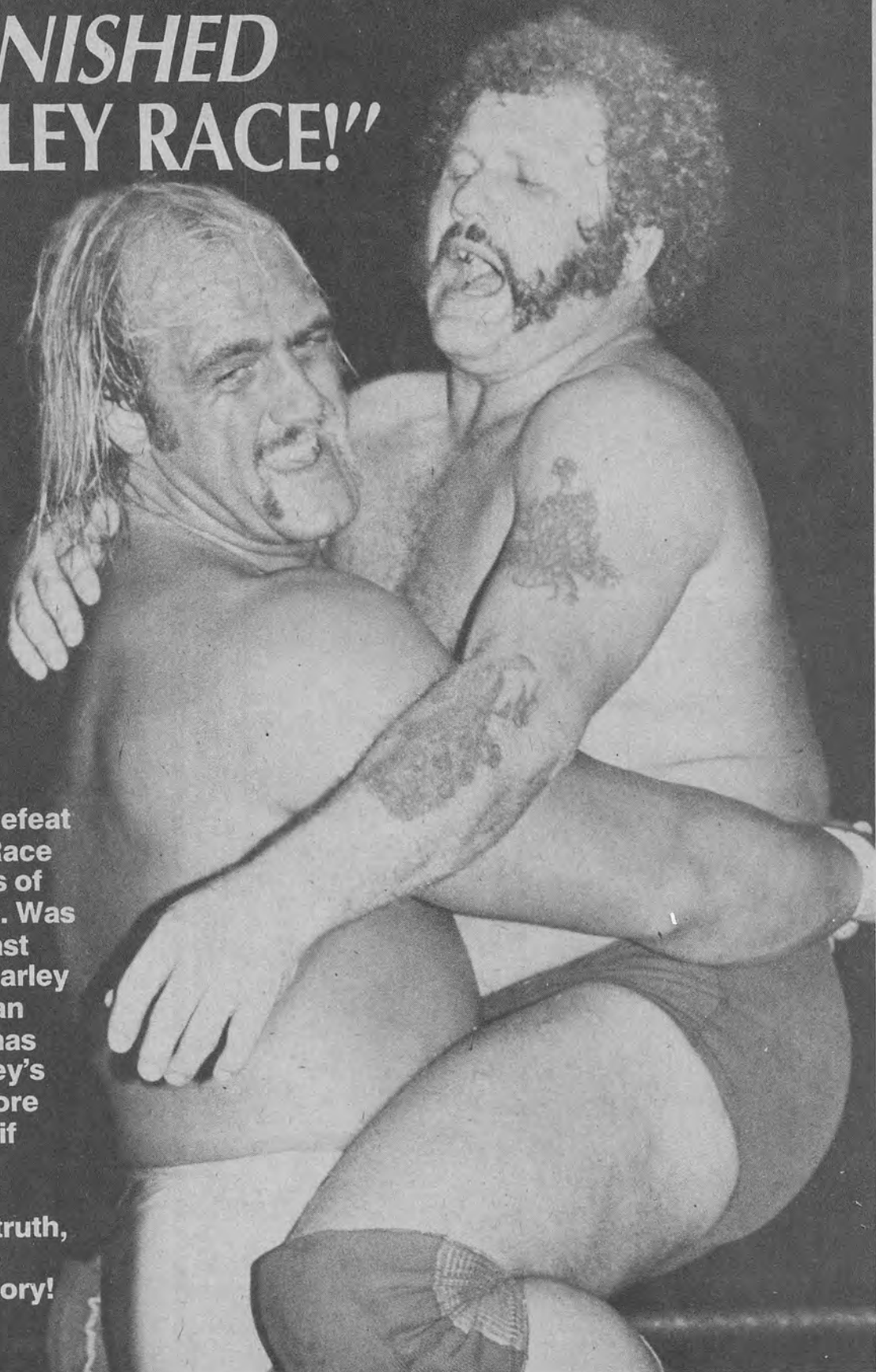


Santana prepares to pounce upon the pleading Leo Burke. Tito didn't travel all the way to Toronto to wrestle unaggressively.

HULK HOGAN:

**"I AM THE MAN WHO
FINISHED
HARLEY RACE!"**

It was an inglorious defeat for Harley Race at the hands of Hulk Hogan. Was it also the last match for Harley Race? Hogan swears he has ended Harley's career. Before you decide if Hogan is bragging or stating the truth, read this shocking story!





Race makes a vain attempt to roll away from the path of Hogan's flying elbowsmash (above left). The NWA champion is about to be the recipient of a thundering Hogan bodyslam (above right). The Hulk was able to thrust his arms into the canvas just in time to absorb the brunt of Race's piledriver (bottom). Hogan's bearhug has the champ close to defeat (opposite page).

MORE STUNNED THAN jubilant, Hulk Hogan announced to the reporters surrounding him in the dressing room, "I finished Harley Race. From now on, Race can wrestle only on luck and reputation."

Hogan shook his head a couple of times and asked, "You saw it happen, too, didn't you? Race just collapsed. He couldn't take the pounding I was giving him. Suddenly, his body turned to spaghetti, his movements were sluggish, and there was nothing he could do about it. I felt a man's career end in my hands. Do you guys have any idea what that feels like? We're talking *power*. That's why I'm not NWA champion tonight. I had too much power. I've never done anything that stupid before. I've also never done anything as awesome."

Hogan referred to the end of the match. Though he knew that tossing an opponent over the top rope means immediate disqualification in the NWA, he couldn't resist. After it happened, no one understood why Hogan had taken the semiconscious Race and

hurled him over the ropes. That disqualification cost Hogan the NWA title. Hogan didn't care. Like



some primitive beast, he had to do something to show he was the new king of the jungle. So, driven by a mad joy beyond control, Hogan threw Race and the NWA title over the ropes.

No one who saw that will ever forget the look on Hogan's face. It was an awesome exhibition of wrestling ego. Through some

physical sense only professional athletes possess, Hogan believed himself the man to have ended one of wrestling's most remarkable careers. That accomplishment radiated from his entire body. After the referee disqualified Hogan, the gargantuan grappler stood like an Apollo in the center of the ring. The crowd started cheering, not as fans but as worshippers. One couldn't help but be swept up in Hogan's sense of conquest.

Nor could anyone help but cheer for the match. Hogan and Race battled with a ferocity that at times stunned the crowd into shocked silence. Something special was happening; that much was for certain. Hogan's body never moved with such assurance and control. His every move seemed a thunderburst of power. Race used all the veteran cunning at his command to defend against the assault. Whenever Race tried to mount an offense of his own, Hogan seemingly swatted it by.

As the match wore on, Race became desperate. This was totally uncharacteristic for the cham-



Holding Race in a front facelock, Hogan chooses his next move (above). It was not a wise one. After dumping Race over the top rope and earning an automatic disqualification, the Hulk backdrops the champion (right) and leaves him lying outside the ring (below).



pion. Race's success has been his ability to think his way out of trouble. At the same time, it seemed as if his body were refusing to obey the brain's commands. That was understandable. The body had taken a brutal beating at the hands of Hogan.

Finally, Race stood trapped in the middle of the ring. Looking like a magnificent lion about to surrender his reign to another, Race awaited the final defeat. His stance, though he was battered and beaten, exuded a pride and dignity that left no one unmoved. Suddenly, the crowd cheered him, not for what Race had done tonight but for all the years of greatness. Several people stood and unashamedly cried.

Instead of winning, of course, Hogan made his foolhardy but dramatic throw of Race over the ropes. One reporter said a few moments afterward, "Hogan didn't want the win. He beat the man conclusively. He let Race keep his dignity. I've been watching wrestling for about 30 years and that was the most noble thing I've ever seen. Tonight, I'll consider it an honor if Hulk Hogan shakes my hand."

As for Race, he locked his



dressing room door after the match. It was more than three hours later he emerged. By then, there was only one reporter waiting for him. The journalist was surprised when Race said, "I'm glad someone's still here. Let's talk."

They went back into the dressing room and Race sprawled out on a bench. Exhausted from more than any physical beating he ever remembered taking, he looked at the ceiling and said, "It gets harder every title reign. More guys want you, they're better prepared and all your secrets seem to be common knowledge. A man needs time between title reigns to develop more secrets."

The journalist said, "Hogan believes he's finished your career. He thinks he damaged your body

irreparably. It wasn't said as a brag nor an insult. He really believes you're through."

Race tried to smile but lacked the strength to put up a front. "I'm not finished," he said, "and Hogan isn't the first to believe he's finished me. I'm hurt and I'm tired, but I've been here before. I've been written off more times than a businessman's lunch. I'll come back. I just wish I could go away for a time."

With that, Race got up from the bench and left the arena. Was he the broken man Hulk Hogan believes him to be? Or can that magnificent spirit that keeps Race going once again rally his mind and body? As Race walked to his car, one couldn't help but feel Race was wondering the same thing. □

DAVID VON ERICH: REFLECTIONS OF A FUTURE GREAT



EVEN FOR THE golden ones, life as a professional wrestler isn't easy. Compared to most, David Von Erich has had a blessed career. Protected by a family intimate with the business—his father is a former wrestling great and his brothers, Kevin and Kerry, are top mat stars—and born with remarkable natural abilities, it seemed as if David would easily make his way

to superstardom. It's never easy.

David has been through turmoil. About two years ago he embarked on a strange exodus from his family and into the world of rule-breaking. Many thought at the time that he might be ruining his career. It's only now that he can look back and ahead with wisdom born of struggle.

Even the headline of this article

demonstrates David's insistence on modesty. Most fans already consider him a hero, but David asked that if we were being complimentary in the article, could we stress that his best work is yet to come. David considers himself an athlete in transition, having gone from promising to professional. For him, greatness is still an accomplishment he has yet to achieve. That's why

David Von Erich is one of the most popular men in wrestling. The fans who cheer him, however, don't really know the complex man who has won their hearts. In this privileged glimpse into David's personality, the man tells for the first time about the dreams and fears that drive him to victory



Von Erich applies a standing wristlock on Rocky Johnson during a 1981 St. Louis match (above). His spell as a rulebreaker in Florida, when he feuded with men like Dusty Rhodes (right), served as a valuable lesson in David's life. In a battle of claws, Von Erich takes the upper hand against the recently reformed Blackjack Lanza (below right).

we referred to him in the headline as a future great.

"I think the fans have a tendency to expect too much too soon," David says quietly, "and that's not their fault. A wrestler needs a strong ego to survive in this sport; you really have to believe you can beat everyone on any given night. Now that's ludicrous, no one is perfect, but you have to believe it. So you tell the fans you're the best and because they like you, they believe you. So now thousands of people are cheering, and you suddenly figure they must be right. You are the greatest. These mutual delusions feed each other until the wrestler doesn't know the truth from his bragging. That's the most dangerous thing that can happen.

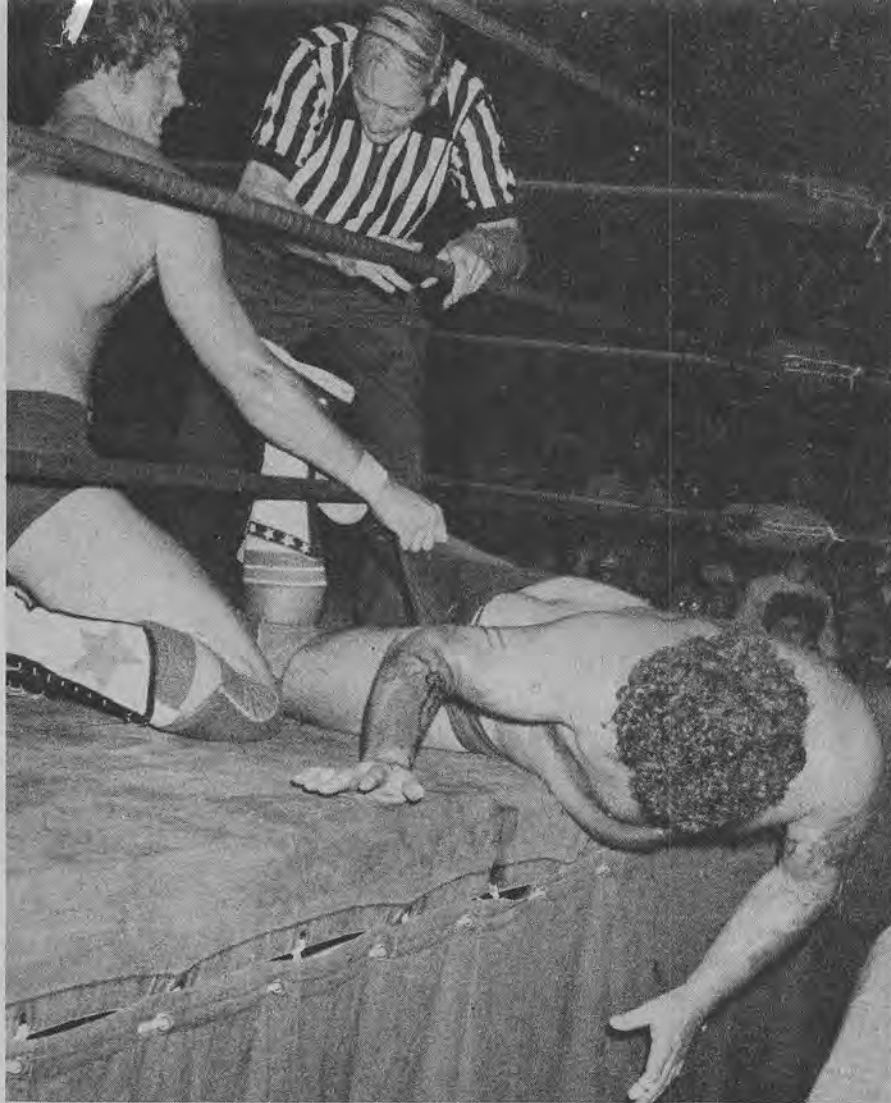
"Looking back on it, I think that's why I went to Florida a couple of years ago. Some self-preservation instinct told me I had to find out the truth about myself. I



even turned on the fans, wrestling heroes like Dusty Rhodes, just so I could find out who I really was. I was friendly with Jim Garvin! He's the worst kind of snake, a shame to professional wrestling. I was careening wildly hoping to stumble onto the truth. I found you can't stumble on the truth by running away.

"That's when I made up with my family. I had to get away, but I'm happy to be back and accepted. My brothers were like rocks through the whole thing. No matter what I did, no matter how stupid I got, it never occurred to me I couldn't go to them for support. I could take the fact of their love as a given. If I didn't have that kind of support, I don't think I could have taken any risks.

"While we're at it, I think it's important to realize my brothers have made it possible for me to be successful. I can't explain exactly



"I don't think I was ready to be NWA champion before," he says in retrospect. "The pressures and responsibilities are crippling. Just look at what happens to some guys. I know for a fact Flair almost went off the deep end. Race may be the saddest and loneliest man I ever met. Any man who tells you he isn't a little afraid of the NWA title pressures is either stupid or scared to admit it."

Right now, David and his brothers are embroiled in an especially brutal feud with The Freebirds. Their matches are furious exhibitions of wrestling hatred. As much as David hates The Freebirds, he's grateful to them for



"I've won more titles than they have, but they own a piece of every one I earned. If I have more titles, I think it's because I'm ambitious. Kevin and Kerry are purer athletes; the love of sport is enough for them. I need the titles. Helping me is enough glory for them. Helping them is never enough glory for me."

That last sentence wasn't easy for David to speak. There was a steely determination in his voice when he spoke, as if the truth had to be faced. His ambition has led him into feuds, gotten him titles that were much harder to defend than to win, and even gotten him NWA World title shots against both Harley Race and Ric Flair. David thinks he deserved the NWA title in his matches against both champions but knows enough not to be obsessed by the turn of events. In fact, it may have been for the best.

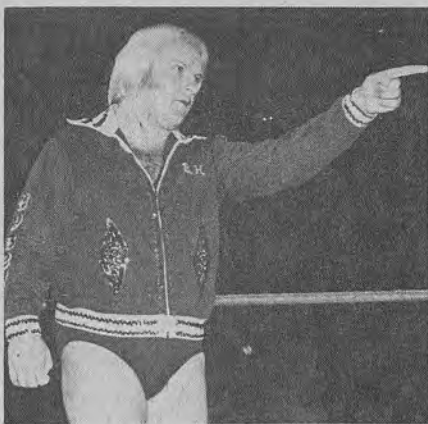
why they mean so much to me, but I know it's true. I can tell you why I won the Missouri State title. My brothers trained me for that match with Ric Flair better than any man has ever been trained. Looking at the videotapes of that match, I can find about 100 times that their training helped me win.



Von Erich has of yet been unsuccessful in defeating NWA champion Harley Race (top left), but it is agreed that with added experience David has an excellent chance to make it to the top. Von Erich collapses in the corridor of the Kiel Auditorium dressing room (far left). Von Erich, whose strength is underestimated, brings Super Destroyer to his knees (above).

one thing:

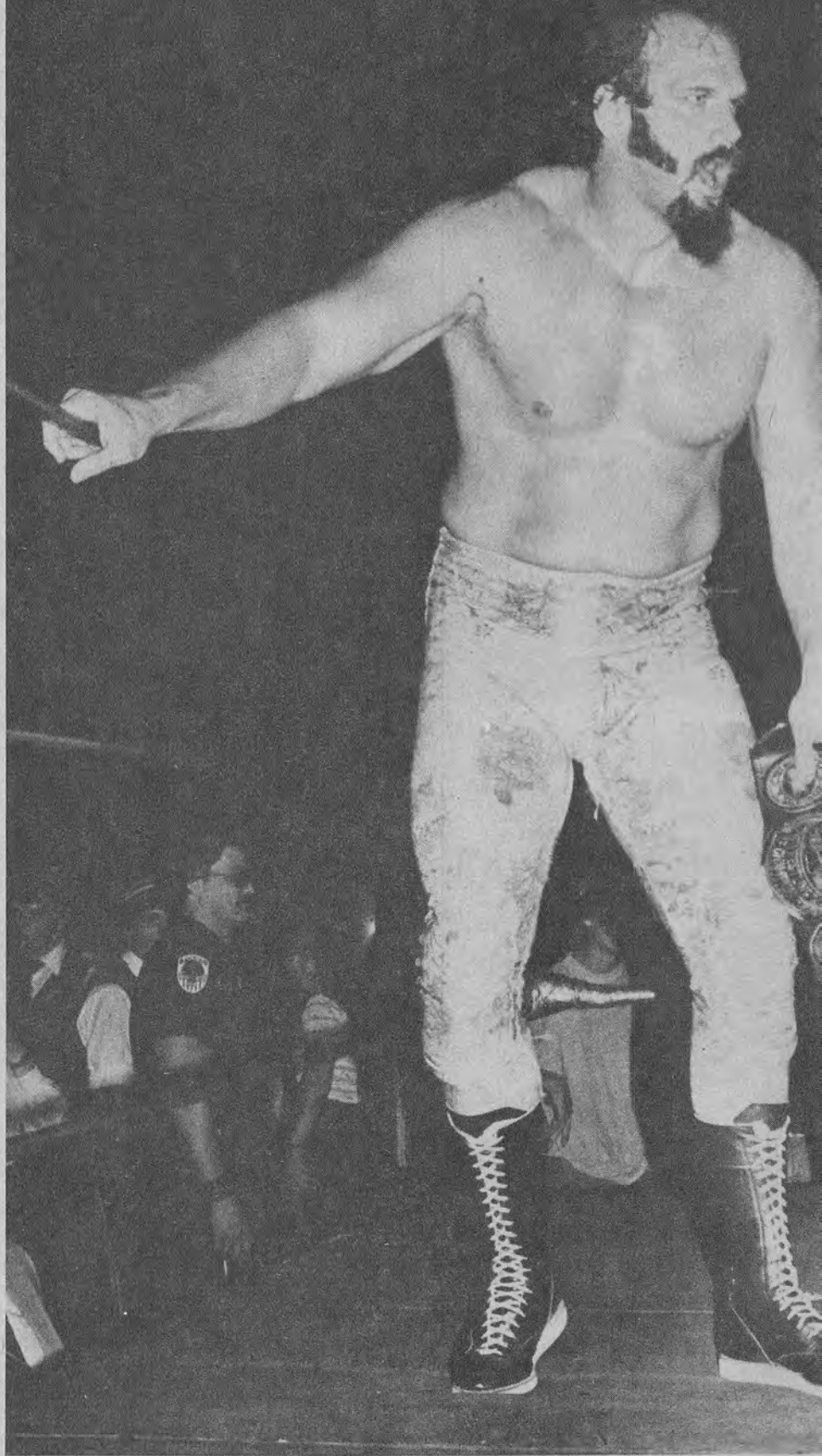
"Because of The Freebirds," he points out, "the Von Erichs wrestle often and well together. Being a team and reinforcing our sense of family is the nicest thing we can do for each other. I'm as proud of being part of the Von Erich six-man tag team as I am of anything in my life." □



Bobby Heenan (top) and Fred Blassie (opposite page) know that the relationship between Jimmy Hart and Jesse Ventura (right) cannot last. Ventura has the talent to beat such men as Austin Idol (above) and Bobby Eaton (below), but his independence will always hinder his career.



Heenan & Blassie Warn



Jimmy Hart:



JESSE VENTURA IS UNMANAGEABLE

Why has Jesse Ventura always had a manager if he resents being told what to do? The man has all the physical abilities to be a world champion, but for some reason he refuses to listen to anyone. Bobby Heenan knows this. Freddie Blassie knows this. And Jimmy Hart is quickly finding out

IT WASN'T ORIGINALLY meant to go public. At first Jimmy Hart denied the conversations had ever taken place or the letter had been sent. Then, when others involved readily admitted the truth, Hart had no choice but to call Freddie Blassie and Bobby Heenan "jealous idiots." No sane man wants to be put in that position.

Of course, the point was that no sane man would be earning his living as Hart currently does, managing the wrestling career of Jesse Ventura. The whole ordeal for Hart started the day he signed Ventura to contract. Things then went from bad to uncontrollable. At times, Hart must have thought Ventura considered his manager his main opponent. Ventura makes a practice to disobey a manager's orders and confound his expectations. It didn't take long to realize that Ventura's glory train promised Jimmy a long and bumpy ride.

Hart signalled for help. He de-

cided to call Ventura's former managers, Freddie Blassie and Bobby Heenan. Perhaps they had the secret for taming this madman. The answers he received didn't make him feel any better.

Blassie's advice: "Control him? It's easy. Tie him up and force him to breathe in a gallon of ether. Anything less and you don't stand a chance." Heenan's advice: "Don't try. Take the money up front and leave the arena. Ventura doesn't want a manager. He wants a doormat. Only a fool would consider managing him. No, I'm not calling you a fool—unless you keep managing him. Everybody makes a mistake. Only a fool repeats it."

Hart couldn't believe it. Blassie and Heenan, two of wrestling's most ruthless managers, saying there was a wrestler they couldn't handle. When one considers the wild and reckless personalities these two men have easily kept in check, their pronouncements are astounding.



When Ventura refused to leave the ring to escape the rallying Eaton, Hart took it upon himself to pull his wrestler to safety. Hart is quickly finding out how difficult it is to keep Jesse under his control.

As remarkable as this turn of events became, it would never have gone public but for the letter, or as Hart now refers to it, "That damned stupid piece of trash." It was written by Heenan after his phone conversation with Hart. Bobby felt the need to explain himself in more detail.

"I know what you're going through. Ventura is a brilliant, tough, ruthless athlete, the kind any intelligent manager longs to get under contract. For the first couple of weeks, it's like a dream

come true. He follows orders, racks up victories, gains a reputation for slaughtering his foes and a championship seems inevitable. You just start counting the expected money when he starts making you crazy.

"First, he refused to follow orders. Then he starts telling you whom his next opponent should be. This is followed by making you look like an idiot in public. He did it to me, he did it to Blassie (the two almost killed each other on more than one oc-

casion) and he's doing it to you. Take a wise man's advice. Send the guy packing.

"I've seen recent videotapes of Ventura's matches and I know what you're feeling. In a recent match against Austin Idol, he was fantastic. He put on a powerhouse exhibition of wrestling ruthlessness. I admit after seeing it I considered trying to buy his contract from you. When Ventura is good, he is very, very good.

"At the same time, when he wants to be a pain in the neck, he is horrid. As you might have guessed, I'm referring to the Bobby Eaton match. I saw what he was doing to you. Your every command was ignored. He was using Eaton as a weapon against you. It's his way of showing you who's boss. You know as well as I do, once a wrestler starts doing that, he's useless to a manager. It took me too long to realize this. I kept believing, like an idiot, that I could change him. It's not easy for me to admit I failed. Don't waste your time."

The above letter arrived at our offices. We don't know who sent it to us, but the postmark said Minneapolis. That's not coincidentally where Heenan is headquartered. When we asked Bobby if he sent the letter, he said, "Of course not! But when you think of all the enemies has Ventura made, it's not hard to come up with a list of 30 people who might." Despite what he says, Heenan's name should be put at the top of that list.

Hart begged Ventura not to publicly reply to the letter, and for the time being Ventura has complied. All Hart will say is that Heenan is entitled to his opinion, but "Jesse Ventura is the best wrestler I've ever managed."

That isn't exactly a ringing endorsement of Ventura's manageability. More telling, Jimmy Hart looks like he'd give his entire fortune for a night's untroubled sleep. □



The powerful Ventura uses leverage against Bob Backlund in the WWF (left) and Hulk Hogan in the AWA (below). Blassie and Heenan recognize Jesse's talent but refuse to manage him.



RATINGS ANALYSIS

Every month, this column will tell fans how we go about rating more than 150 wrestlers in 14 different categories. It is a behind-the-scenes look at the most important—and respected—ratings system in the sport. This column is vital reading for all wrestling fans

Dipping into the mailbag: We recently received the following letter from W. Page Pyne of Hagerstown, Maryland:

I am sitting here reading the latest copy of Pro Wrestling Illustrated and preparing to go to the local matches in a couple of hours, and I cannot help but wonder why the "Official Wrestling Ratings" columns in Pro Wrestling Illustrated, The Wrestler, Inside Wrestling, Wrestling Superstars, Sports Review Wrestling, Wrestling 83, and your other publications, do not identify which tag team title may be associated with any of the rated teams.



The Road Warriors

If the Briscos hold the NWA World title, why not say it? Are the AWA World tag claimants the team of Patera and Blackwell? I think so. The Road Warriors are the National titleholders, I believe, but do Akeem and Muhammad hold a federation title? What about Allen and Duggan?

If the titles as they exist were associated with the

teams that hold them, we readers might know what federations and associations you believe to have the best competition at any given time.

To me and a lot of fans, tag team action is every bit as exciting as singles competition. I feel these tag teams deserve recognition as to whatever banners they currently hold.

W. Page Pyne's point is well taken. From now on, our tag team category in the ratings will include the championship title that the teams hold at press time. In cases where a ranked team doesn't hold a championship title, their standing as challengers will be noted (example: No. 1 contender to NWA World tag team title).

A couple of clarifications: There have been some interesting developments in wrestling since our last issue, and these are reflected in the ratings. The most important changes affecting the ratings are:

- Brett Wayne will now be referred to as Brett Sawyer. The announcement that the Brett and Buzz Sawyer will be using the same surname was made during the production of this magazine, so in some articles and columns you will see Brett referred to as "Brett Wayne," and in others "Brett Sawyer." In the ratings, and elsewhere from now on, Brett Sawyer is the name we will be using.



Michael Hayes

- Michael Hayes lost a Loser Leave Town Cage match to Kerry Von Erich in Dallas. As a result, Hayes will be unable to wrestle in the state of Texas for an entire year. Accordingly, Hayes has been removed entirely from the ratings for the World Class area. You will note that The Freebirds, the World Class six-man titleholders, are rated number four in the tag team category. This is because at press time, World Class wrestling commissioners had not made any decision regarding that title. They may strip The Freebirds of the title, or they may mandate that the remaining two Freebirds, Terry Gordy and Buddy Roberts, defend the championship by themselves or select a third partner.

The address for mail: We always welcome your comments on our ratings system, and, from time to time, "Ratings Analysis" will devote space on this page to your questions and suggestions. Send them to: "Ratings Analysis" c/o *The Wrestler*; Box 48; Rockville Centre; NY 11571.

OFF WRESTLIN

Ratings are based on won-lost records for the past month, quality of opposition, and the inherent skill of each wrestler. These ratings are compiled by the editors and are universally recognized as official.



Ric Flair



Andre the Giant

TOP10

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1— RIC FLAIR
243, Minneapolis, MN | 6— DAVID VON ERICH
247, Denton, TX |
| 2— ANDRE THE GIANT
497, Grenoble, France | 7— BARRY WINDHAM
230, Sweetwater, TX |
| 3— HULK HOGAN
320, Venice Beach, CA | 8— BOB BACKLUND
242, Princeton, MN |
| 4— NICK BOCKWINKEL
245, Beverly Hills, CA | 9— HARLEY RACE
253, Kansas City, MO |
| 5— DUSTY RHODES
302, Austin, TX | 10— MIL MASCARAS
242, Mexico City, Mexico |

MOST POPULAR

- 1—**BUZZ SAWYER**
240, St. Petersburg, FL
- 2—**JIMMY SNUKA**
250, Fiji Islands
- 3—**DUSTY RHODES**
302, Austin, TX
- 4—**JUNKYARD DOG**
260, New Orleans, LA
- 5—**ANDRE THE GIANT**
497, Grenoble, France
- 6—**TOMMY RICH**
238, Hendersonville, TN
- 7—**DAVID VON ERICH**
247, Denton, TX
- 8—**HULK HOGAN**
320, Venice Beach, CA
- 9—**BOB BACKLUND**
242, Princeton, MN
- 10—**DINO BRAVO**
248, Montreal, Quebec

MOST HATED

- 1—**ABDULLAH THE BUTCHER**
360, Sudan
- 2—**GREG VALENTINE**
243, Seattle, WA
- 3—**JAKE ROBERTS**
243, Baton Rouge, LA
- 4—**HACKSAW REED**
249, Kansas City, MO
- 5—**NICK BOCKWINKEL**
245, Beverly Hills, CA
- 6—**TED DiBIASE**
247, Omaha, NE
- 7—**RON BASS**
285, Pampa, FL
- 8—**KEVIN SULLIVAN**
235, Boston, MA
- 9—**MAGNIFICENT MURACO**
262, Sunset Beach, HI
- 10—**MASKED SUPERSTAR**
282, Atlanta, GA

NWA and AWA ratings are compiled with the assistance of wrestlers, promoters, and reporters. "Most Popular" and "Most Hated" ratings are based on nationwide surveys of wrestling fans and on mail that comes to our offices.

TAG TEAMS

- 1—**RICK STEAMBOAT & JAY YOUNGBLOOD**
NWA World tag team champions
Combined weight: 475 pounds
- 2—**KEN PATERA & CRUSHER BLACKWELL**
AWA World tag team champions
Combined weight: 710 pounds
- 3—**THE ROAD WARRIORS**
National tag team champions
Combined weight: 567 pounds
- 4—**THE FREEBIRDS**
World Class six-man tag team champions
Combined weight: 791 pounds*
- 5—**ELIJAH AKEEM & KAREEM MUHAMMAD**
U.S. tag team champions
Combined weight: 578 pounds
- 6—**ROCKY JOHNSON & TONY ATLAS**
WWF tag team champions
Combined weight: 491 pounds
- 7—**BUTCH REED & JIM NEIDHART**
Mid-South tag team champions
Combined weight: 497 pounds
- 8—**STEVE KEIRN & STAN LANE**
Mid-Southern tag team champions
Combined weight: 479 pounds
- 9—**PAT PATTERSON & PIERRE LEFEBVRE**
Canadian International tag team champions
Combined weight: 476 pounds
- 10—**KING TONGA & EL GRAN APOLLO**
World Wrestling Council North American champions
Combined weight: 482 pounds

*Combined weights reflect three team members

NWA

World Champion:
RIC FLAIR

243, Kansas City, MO

- 1—**GREG VALENTINE**
243, Seattle, WA
- 2—**DAVID VON ERICH**
247, Denton, TX
- 3—**TED DiBIASE**
247, Omaha, NE
- 4—**BARRY WINDHAM**
230, Sweetwater, TX
- 5—**RUFUS R. JONES**
287, Boston, MA
- 6—**RON BASS**
285, Pampa, TX
- 7—**HARLEY RACE**
253, Kansas City, MO
- 8—**TOMMY RICH**
238, Hendersonville, TN
- 9—**CARLOS COLON**
238, Bayamon, Puerto Rico
- 10—**CHRIS ADAMS**
225, Stratford on Avon, England

AWA

World Champion:
NICK BOCKWINKEL
245, Beverly Hills, CA

- 1—**MAD DOG VACHON**
225, Algeria
- 2—**HULK HOGAN**
320, Venice Beach, CA
- 3—**RICK MARTEL**
236, Quebec City, Quebec
- 4—**BRAD RHEINGANS**
248, Minneapolis, MN
- 5—**KEN PATERA**
256, Portland, OR
- 6—**MR. SAITO**
247, Osaka, Japan
- 7—**BILLY ROBINSON**
246, Manchester, England
- 8—**GREG GAGNE**
220, Robinsdale, MN
- 9—**JERRY LAWLER**
234, Memphis, TN
- 10—**BLACKJACK LANZA**
260, Laredo, TX

SPECIAL G R A T I N G S

Below are the ratings for the top regional wrestling areas of the country. These ratings are based on nationwide surveys of wrestlers, promoters, and reporters.

WWF

- Champion:**
BOB BACKLUND
242, Princeton, MN
- 1—**MASKED SUPERSTAR**
282, Atlanta, GA
 - 2—**MAGNIFICENT MURACO**
262, Sunset Beach, HI
 - 3—**PAUL ORNDORFF**
253, Brandon, FL
 - 4—**JIMMY SNUKA**
250, Fiji Islands
 - 5—**TITO SANTANA**
245, Mission, TX
 - 6—**IRON SHEIK**
262, Teheran, Iran
 - 7—**SGT. SLAUGHTER**
310, Paris Island, SC
 - 8—**ROCKY JOHNSON**
244, Washington, DC
 - 9—**TONY ATLAS**
247, Roanoke, VA
 - 10—**IVAN PUTSKI**
242, Krakow, Poland

GEORGIA

- 1—**TED DiBIASE**
247, Omaha, NE
- 2—**JAKE ROBERTS**
243, Baton Rouge, LA
- 3—**BRETT SAWYER**
242, St. Petersburg, FL
- 4—**BUZZ SAWYER**
240, St. Petersburg, FL
- 5—**TOMMY RICH**
238, Hendersonville, TN
- 6—**KING KONG BUNDY**
420, Atlantic City, NJ
- 7—**PEZ WHATLEY**
238, El Paso, TX
- 8—**MR. WRESTLING II**
232, Atlanta, GA
- 9—**RONNIE GARVIN**
231, Montreal, Quebec
- 10—**BRUNO SAMMARTINO JR.**
241, Pittsburgh, PA

FLORIDA

- 1—**RON BASS**
285, Pampa, TX
- 2—**BARRY WINDHAM**
230, Sweetwater, TX
- 3—**DUSTY RHODES**
302, Austin, TX
- 4—**MIKE GRAHAM**
232, Tampa, FL
- 5—**MIKE ROTONDO**
245, Syracuse, NY
- 6—**BLACKJACK MULLIGAN**
310, Sweetwater, TX
- 7—**ELIJAH AKEEM**
281, Africa
- 8—**KAREEM MUHAMMAD**
297, Africa
- 9—**ABDULLAH THE BUTCHER**
360, Sudan
- 10—**MIKE DAVIS**
232, Atlanta, GA

MID-ATLANTIC

- 1—**GREG VALENTINE**
243, Seattle, WA
- 2—**RUFUS R. JONES**
287, Boston, MA
- 3—**RODDY PIPER**
231, Scotland
- 4—**RIC FLAIR**
243, Minneapolis, MN
- 5—**DICK SLATER**
235, Tampa, FL
- 6—**COWBOY BOB ORTON**
245, Kansas City, KS
- 7—**THE GREAT KABUKI**
252, Singapore
- 8—**JIMMY VALIANT**
251, New York, NY
- 9—**BUGSY McGRAW**
245, New York, NY
- 10—**KEVIN SULLIVAN**
235, Boston, MA

WORLD CLASS

- 1—**CHRIS ADAMS**
225, Stratford on Avon, England
- 2—**DAVID VON ERICH**
247, Denton, TX
- 3—**KEVIN VON ERICH**
254, Denton, TX
- 4—**JIM GARVIN**
235, Tampa, FL
- 5—**KERRY VON ERICH**
251, Denton, TX
- 6—**ICEMAN PARSONS**
242, St. Louis, MO
- 7—**KAMALA**
360, Uganda
- 8—**SUPER DESTROYER**
271, parts unknown
- 9—**TERRY GORDY**
289, Chattanooga, TN
- 10—**SUPER DESTROYER II**
271, parts unknown

MID-SOUTH

- 1—**JUNKYARD DOG**
260, New Orleans, LA
- 2—**HACKSAW REED**
249, Kansas City, MO
- 3—**NIKOLAI VOLKOFF**
345, Siberia, Russia
- 4—**TERRY ALLEN**
245, Chesapeake, VA
- 5—**HACKSAW DUGGAN**
280, New York, NY
- 6—**KAMALA**
360, Uganda
- 7—**MR. WRESTLING II**
232, Atlanta, GA
- 8—**KRUSHER DARSOW**
303, Thief River Falls, MN
- 9—**BORIS ZURKHOV**
239, Leningrad, Russia
- 10—**STEVE WILLIAMS**
234, Tulsa, OK

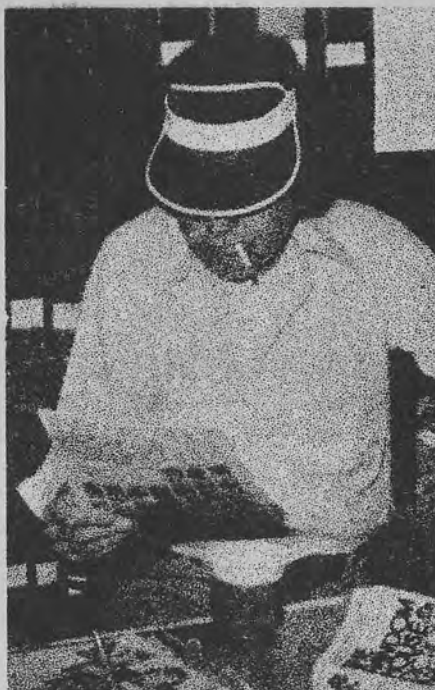
MID-SOUTHERN

- 1—**AUSTIN IDOL**
240, Las Vegas, NV
- 2—**JERRY LAWLER**
234, Memphis, TN
- 3—**BILL DUNDEE**
214, Melbourne, Australia
- 4—**BUDDY LANDELL**
230, Jacksonville, FL
- 5—**TERRY TAYLOR**
219, Tampa, FL
- 6—**DUTCH MANTEL**
224, Oil Trough, TX
- 7—**STEVE KEIRN**
220, Tampa, FL
- 8—**STAN LANE**
219, Del Ray, FL
- 9—**DENNIS CONDREY**
220, Pensicola, FL
- 10—**KOKO WARE**
217, Union City, TN

NORTHWEST

- 1—**RIP OLIVER**
245, Tampa, FL
- 2—**BILLY JACK**
245, Portland, OR
- 3—**DYNAMITE KID**
225, England
- 4—**PLAYBOY BUDDY ROSE**
245, Minneapolis, MN
- 5—**JULES STRONGBOW**
247, Pawhuska, OK
- 6—**THE ASSASSIN**
240, parts unknown
- 7—**AL MADRIL**
235, Los Angeles, CA
- 8—**MATT BORNE**
240, Milwaukie, OR
- 9—**CHAVO GUERRERO**
237, Juarez, Mexico
- 10—**CHIEF TAPU**
228, Samoa

MATT BROCK'S



LOOKING BACK

DECEMBER, 1981

STEVE KEIRN VS. STAN LANE



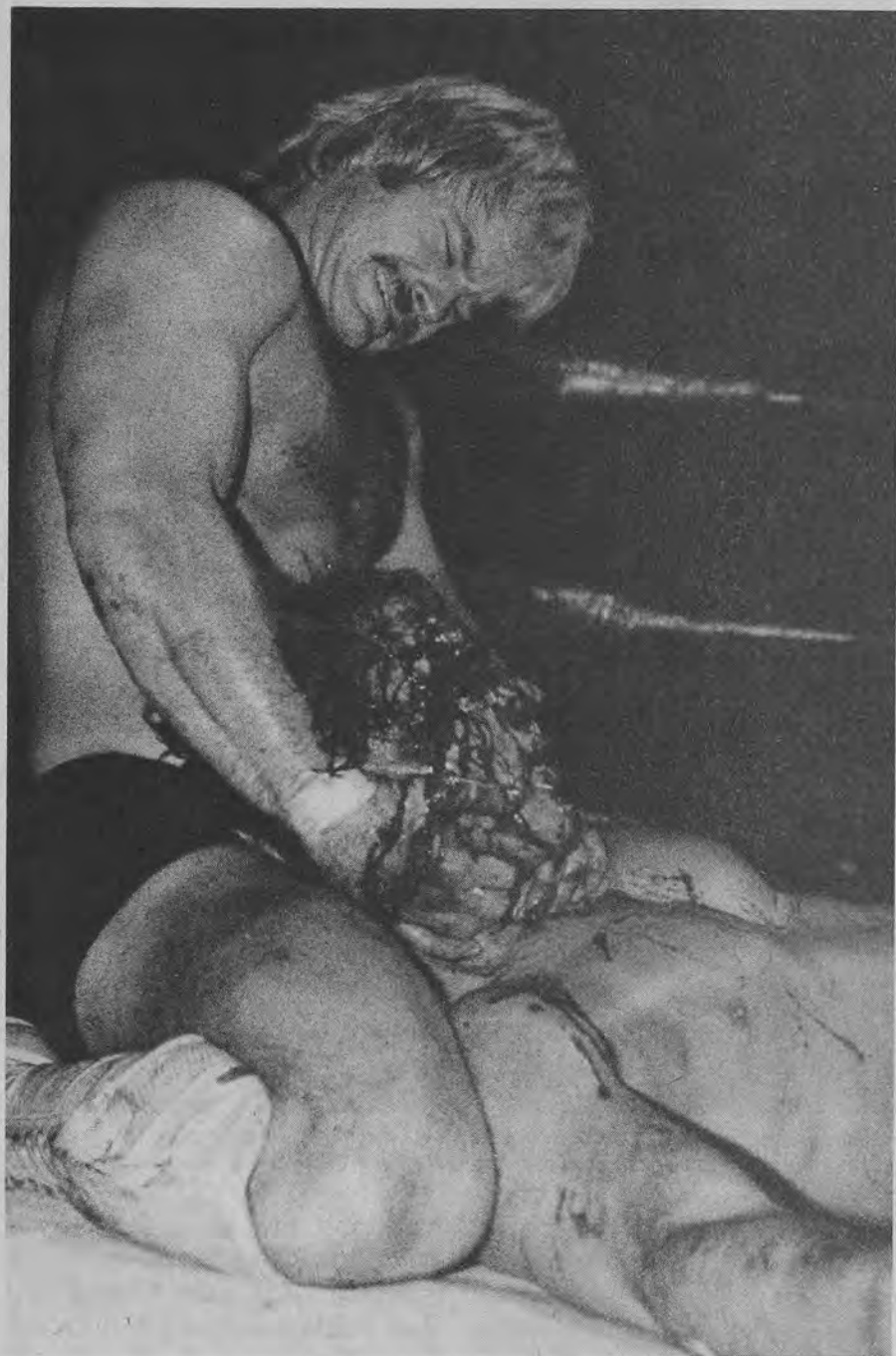
Blood spurts from the forehead of Steve Keirn as Stan Lane clamps his hands around Steve's throat. It's incredible to think that the "Fabulous Ones" ever had such strong hatred for each other.

I'M NOT LOOKING back very far, but I am looking back at a match that should interest a good deal of you, especially if you're fans of the "Fabulous Ones," Steve Keirn and Stan Lane.

Many tag team champions of the past have commented that the relationship between partners is similar to that of a husband and wife. Trust, support, and mutual respect are three components necessary for the relationship to work. From the photos on these two pages, you wouldn't imagine that Keirn and Lane could ever become a tag team combination, but, as we know, they are now one of the top-rated teams in the country, and currently hold the Mid-Southern championship.

I was in Memphis, Tennessee, in December of 1981, and watched as *rulebreaker* Lane trounced Keirn, pummeling his forehead until blood splattered onto his body and his trunks, and decorated the ring canvas.

Doctors were still attending to



His hands soaked with Keirn's blood, Lane finds it difficult to maintain a grip on Steve's head (above). The aggressive Lane won't allow Keirn a moment's rest in the corner (top right).

Keirn's wounds when I entered his dressing room after the match. I watched as the medics carefully stitched and then bandaged the cuts that spread across his forehead.

Keirn was in no condition to grant an interview, but he invited me to stay, just to talk. I closed my notebook and sat back.

We discussed his battle with Lane, and I asked him about the feelings that fueled their feud. I was not surprised when Keirn could not

verbalize those feelings. Knowing both of them, I realized that they were cut from the same piece of cloth.

I'd seen it before. Two guys, seeing something in each other that they fear in themselves, decide they hate each other. For the kinds of reasons that psychiatrists make a fortune just for guessing at, the two guys do things to each other that neither understands.

I understood why Keirn was suf-



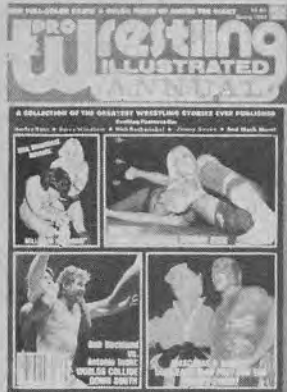
fering. He had tried to do too much during the match. He had been reckless and left himself open. Lane knew how to take advantage of the situation.

As history shows, Steve wasn't the only one battered in that match. Something happened inside Lane. Whatever demons punished him were somehow driven out by that match. Slowly but surely, like a man coming off a bender that started as a suicide trip, Stan found what was noble inside himself. He became a scientific wrestler, someone worthy of respect. That meant a lot to him.

I wasn't surprised when Stan and Steve teamed up to be the Fabulous Ones. There's a little bit of the old Stan in both of them, a cockiness that makes them great. There's also much of the best of both of them, the need to be men of dignity and honor.

A couple of years ago, on a blood-soaked mat in a crowded arena, a partnership was begun by two men seemingly out to kill each other. It took that match, with its passion and rage, to let each man discover something important for himself. These two enemies were much alike, which is why they've become such good partners. □

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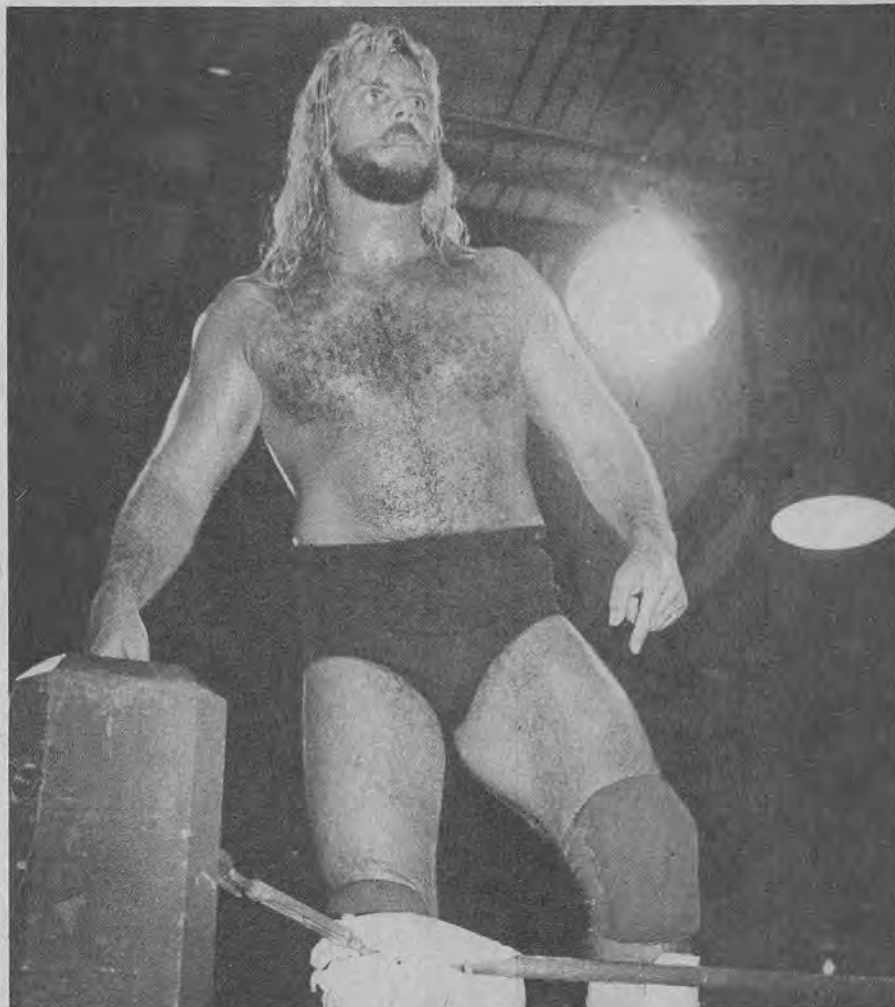
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WHAT'S HAPPENING

(Continued from page 8)



Freebird Michael Hayes has been knocked from his perch above the wrestling world. Hayes must sit out a year in Texas after suffering defeat in a Loser Leave Town Cage Match to Kerry Von Erich.

perience with Bunkhouse Matches, and those are one of Bass' specialties. That's okay, though, I look at it as a learning experience. I'm young, I'm improving every day, and I'm confident that I'll regain the belt. Bass laughs when he hears me say that, but I'll have the last laugh when I'm defending the title again and Bass and Dillon come begging for a title shot."

Michael Hayes lost a Loser Leave Town Cage Match to **Kerry Von Erich** in Dallas on Thanksgiving evening. As a result, Hayes is banned from wrestling in Texas for a *full year!* ... **Rocky Johnson** and **Tony Atlas** have succeeded in

capturing the WWF tag team belts from **The Samoans**, managed by **Capt. Lou Albano** ... **Ted DiBiase** captured the National heavyweight title from **Brett Sawyer**.

A fourth Von Erich brother, **Mike Von Erich**, recently won his professional debut by defeating **Gen. Skandor Akbar** with the flying bodypress. "I have to admit, I was scared going into that match," Mike told us, "but I knew that the fear was something I had to face directly. My hatred for Akbar helped me overcome some of that fear, and the cheers of the fans helped me overcome the rest of it. I know I wasn't wrestling completely up to my po-

tential that night, and my nervousness had a lot to do with that. But I have confidence now, and I'm certain that with every match I wrestle, that confidence will grow and my style will smooth out."

David Von Erich was pleased with his brother's debut. "Mike looked good out there, and I know he had a bad case of the nerves going in," David said, "but he'll be getting better all the time from here on in. All he needs is experience. The more he wrestles, the more he'll improve."

WWC champion **Carlos Colón** had to have 30 stitches sewn into his head to close up a grisly wound sustained when **Abdullah the Butcher** attacked him during an interview on Caribbean television ... **Buzz "Avalanche" Tyler** captured the Central States title from **Super Destroyer** in Des Moines, Iowa ... Hawaiian correspondent Losalia Sialeaga reports that Polynesian heavyweight champion **Lars Anderson** is under heavy fan pressure to defend his title against fan favorites **Super Samoan Sakalia** and **Mr. Tui**, who together hold the Polynesian tag team belts.

Curt Hennig and **Playboy Buddy Rose** lost the Pacific Northwest tag team belts to **The Dynamite Kid** and **The Assassin**. Hennig sustained a dislocated shoulder during the match and will be out of action for six to eight weeks. In other Pacific Northwest news, **Rip Oliver** captured the Pacific Northwest heavyweight title from **Billy Jack** in Seattle.

A quick reminder: Be sure to tune in to the WTBS SuperStation from Atlanta and watch "Pro Wrestling Illustrated Press Conference," a semiregular feature of *World Championship Wrestling* from Georgia.

And that's what's happening. See you at the matches! ☐

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YOU ASKED US

(Continued from page 12)



Popular Tony Atlas believes that if he keeps winning his matches, eventually he will have to receive an opportunity to wrestle for Bob Backlund's WWF championship.

those Von Erich-Freebird matches. Those were rough ones. I know how brutal The Freebirds can be. I've spent a lot of time in the ring with them. I have no animosity toward Dave. He's a good ref, and if we both weren't so busy in different parts of the country, I'm sure we could be good friends. I'm just happy to get praise from fans like you, Lisa, and I hope to be considered for the award next year."

Q: "I have a question for Tony Atlas. None of the other scientific wrestlers in the WWF have gotten a shot at Bob Backlund's title. Do you think that you will get a chance?"—Phyllis Danielson, Boston

A: "The only thing I know how to do is win matches," Atlas said.

"I figure that if you win enough matches, they have to give you a shot. It's the only fair thing for the promoters to do. I'm also here so I can team with my good friend Rocky Johnson. Maybe we'll get a shot at the Samoans' tag team title. In any case, I'll get to do what the thing that I love—wrestle."

Q: "Greg Valentine, I think you have more talent and skill than any of the fools who are considered challengers for the NWA World title. Why don't you just end this waiting game and take the title?"—Frank Holland, St. Louis

A: "Oh, you're so right, Frank," Valentine replied. "Sometimes, I think there are no intelligent wrestling fans. You've restored my faith in people. You are correct, I have more talent and skill than all the challengers; and all the champions, too. It seems like we're both waiting. You're waiting for me to be champion, and

I'm waiting for one man to be brave enough to put the title on the line against me. Race says he's too busy. He's running from me. Can you blame him?"

Q: "Butch Reed looks like he's been losing some weight. Is it intentional, and if it is, will he let us all in on his secret?"—Deanna Morillo, New Orleans

A: "I'm looking better and better every day," Reed said. "I'm on a very special program, combining the proper foods with an intense workout regimen. I've been working with a nutritionist and a weightlifting coach. It's helping my performance in the ring, and I'm feeling better than I ever have before. It's no secret, though, it's just hard work and willpower. My plan was devised just for me. You should never go on someone else's diet. You should see a doctor first and work with him, not against him. Then maybe you can all look as fine as I do."

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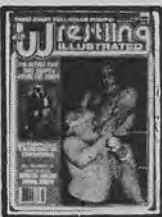
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CORRESPONDENTS REPORTS

(Continued from page 10)

Hartford, Connecticut—Correspondent: Tim Vachula—In the main event at the Hartford Civic Center, Sgt. Slaughter squared off against Jimmy "Superfly" Snuka, continuing their feud in a Steel Cage Match.

At the bell, Slaughter ran for the cage door, but Snuka alertly grabbed him and dragged him to the center of the ring. Jimmy proceeded to slam his opponents head into the wall of the cage, opening a gash on his forehead.

Slaughter copied the move, bloodying Snuka on the steel mesh after ramming his knee into Snuka's midsection. The bleeding did not stop either wrestler's aggression, and they continued to throw each other into the four walls of the cage. Eventually, both men collapsed in the middle of the ring.

Slaughter recovered first and headed for the cage door. The Superfly managed to catch Slaughter by his leg to pull him back in. Slaughter then took off his boot and pounded Snuka's head with it. Snuka took the boot away and did the same to Slaughter.

Both wrestlers later tried to climb out of the cage, but Snuka managed to pull Slaughter down to the canvas. Snuka then climbed up and over the cage for the victory.

In other bouts, Bob Backlund defeated The Masked Superstar by countout... The Invaders and Tito Santana defeated Samoans Afa, Sika, and Samala... Rocky Johnson defeated Don Kernodle... Tiger Chung Lee beat Tony Garea... S.D. Jones defeated Rene Goulet... The Tonga Kid beat Chuck Tanner.

Columbia, South Carolina—Correspondent: Jack L. Murphy—Six of the Mid-Atlantic region's top



Ric Flair launches an attack against Greg Valentine from behind during an uncontrollable six-man tag team match in Columbia, South Carolina.

stars took part in this violent tag team match. On one side stood fan favorites Ric Flair, Roddy Piper, and Wahoo McDaniel. Their opposition consisted of U.S. champion Greg Valentine, Cowboy Bob Orton, and Dick Slater.

The match was out of the referee's control even before the opening bell rang as all six men began to rumble in the center of the ring. Flair's obvious target was his hated rival Orton. But Valentine and Slater managed to block most of Flair's charges, instead holding Flair open for Orton's attacks. The rulebreakers controlled much of the action, punishing the fan favorites with double- and triple-teaming.

With all six men in the ring,

Piper managed to execute a neckbreaker on Valentine and cover his archenemy for the victory.

In other bouts, Dory Funk Jr. defeated Scott McGhee ... Kevin Sullivan and The Purple Haze defeated Terry Gibbs and Johnny Weaver ... Angelo Mosca Sr. beat Tom Lintz ... Vinnie Valentino defeated The Magic Dragon.

Las Vegas, Nevada—Correspondent: Jay Elliott Jr.—The main event at the Showboat Sports Pavilion was an 18-man Battle Royal. The action was sure to be exciting, for the prizes included \$50,000 and a match against AWA World champion Nick Bockwinkel next month at the Showboat.

A number of entrants in the event would have made exciting opponents for Bockwinkel. Among them were former champion Otto Wanz, returning to the United States from Austria; Ray Stevens, who held the AWA World tag team title with Bockwinkel in the 1970s; Andre the Giant, the the Eighth Wonder of the World; and Hulk Hogan, Rick Martel, Mad Dog Vachon, and Brad Rheingans, current top challengers for Bockwinkel's title.

The order of elimination was as follows: Sheik Adnan Al-Kaissie, Buck Zumhofe, Rheingans, Wanz, Vachon, Bobby Heenan, Bill White, Stevens, Superstar Billy Graham (returning to the AWA after a long absence), Ken Patera, Crusher Blackwell, Jim Brunzell, Andre, Hogan, Dave Shultz, Greg Gagne, and Mr. Saito. The winner of this years' Battle Royal—Rick Martel.

In other bouts, Al-Kaissie, Blackwell, and Patera defeated Brunzell, Gagne, and Hogan ... Zumhofe defeated Heenan ... Martel defeated Saito by disqualification ... Shultz defeat Rheingans ... Wanz defeated White.

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YOUR LETTERS

(Continued from page 6)

him go after them too many times.

Another thing: Brett Wayne was no competition for The Road Warriors. Garvin can hold his own, and with the right teammate he could easily take The Road Warriors. Maybe the team of Garvin and Roddy Piper, or Garvin and the "Boogie Woogie Man," Jimmy Valiant. But Brett Wayne will never defeat The Road Warriors; he doesn't have the experience.

Ronnie Garvin is a terrific wrestler and a great athlete, and there isn't a scared bone in his body. I,

for one, don't appreciate the trash and garbage you had in this article.

MARY CUTLIP
Clarksburg, WV

WINDHAM NOT A WIMP

I recently read a letter from a reader in New Jersey in the November 1983 issue of *The Wrestler*. He said that Barry Windham is a wimp. I really got upset when I read that. I don't know how anyone could think that Barry is a wimp. Barry is really cute and fine, and he wrestles great, but he is *not* a wimp! I think Barry is the



Road Warrior Animal displays his awesome strength against Brett Wayne. Wayne, writes Mary Cutlip, was responsible for the problems he and Ronnie Garvin had with the Warriors.



Barry Windham, dropping seatfirst on Harley Race, was badly misjudged by a letter-writer in *The Wrestler's* November issue, in the opinion of Sonja Eisenhower. Sonja calls Barry the "greatest thing to happen to Florida wrestling."

greatest thing to happen to Florida wrestling. I hope he stays here for a long, long time.

That reader in New Jersey thinks that J.J. Dillon and the wrestlers he manages will rule Florida for many years to come. He's wrong. Dusty Rhodes, Blackjack Mulligan, and Barry Windham are the men who will rule Florida for a long time.

I'm glad Angelo Mosca is no longer managed by Dillon. Now he's got friends like Dusty, Mulligan, Barry, and lots of others. And it's all because of his son, Angelo Mosca Jr. I'm glad Angelo Sr. changed. Now I cheer for him, too.

SONJA EISENHauer
Sarasota, FL

LISTEN UP, PEOPLE!

This is to all you half-brained idiots who wouldn't know class, talent, or genius if they introduced themselves to you. Dick Slater is one of the best wrestlers alive, and you so-called fans put him

(Continued on page 58)

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YOUR LETTERS

(Continued from page 57)



Ted DiBiase applies a borderline headlock-chokehold on Tommy Rich. Ted is wrong to forget the people who were with him during the tough times in his career, points out reader Genie Heller.

down. Anyone with any knowledge of wrestling that's seen Slater in action knows he's great.

So wake up, people, open your eyes. Dick Slater is the best!

MARY ANDERSON
 Fayetteville, NC

STAND UP, TED

An open letter to Ted DiBiase:

Confusion is a funny thing, isn't it? It makes you do things you will later regret.

I'm not writing this letter to beg you to turn around, nor am I going to cut you down. I'm writing to point a few things out:

Who was it who helped you

with your battle against The Freebirds? I think you put him in "the doghouse."

Who did you look up to and admire and learn from? Funny, nobody ever seems to thank someone who's helped them become a little wiser and a little bit of a better person.

Who are the people who looked up to you and admired you? Remember when fans used to say that they wanted to grow up and be just like you?

Would the *real* Ted DiBiase please stand up?

GENIE HELLER
 Sioux Falls, SD ☐

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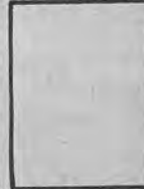
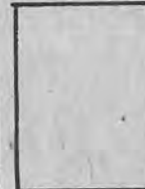
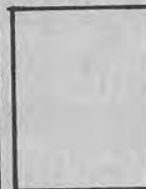
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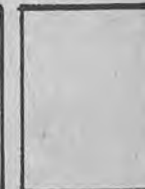
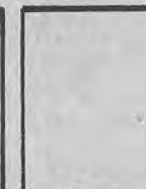
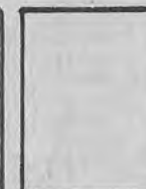
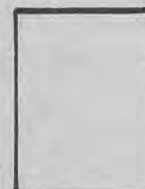
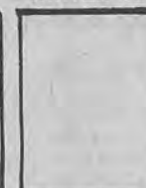
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BUZZ SAWYER & BRETT WAYNE

(Continued from page 31)



trust you completely. If there isn't that trust, one or both of you will get hurt. I can manage to get other guys to trust me just enough. When Buzz teams with anyone but me, he's taking his life in his hands. It's something he must do to prove his dedication, and the danger is there every minute. The danger is much greater for Buzz than his partner, because his partner can sacrifice Buzz without many qualms. No one would really blame him. On the other hand, for Buzz to prove himself, he has to trust the other guy completely. Even if he doesn't, he has to wrestle as if he does."

Then Brett was asked about Buzz's former friends. Their hatred for this new enemy is probably the most intense in wrestling. They'll do anything to cause him agony. Brett is an important target in that campaign. His opponents range from the naturally savage Road Warriors to the desperately dangerous Ted DiBiase. Paul Ellering, the cruel and crafty manager, has often stated that he's intent on driving both brothers from wrestling.

"I know they're after me," Brett says, "but no one promised me this would be easy. I don't under-

Sawyer and Wayne combine to double-drop-kick Hawk (above). Disregarding his own wounds, Sawyer carries his brother from the ring (below).



estimate them. I train harder than anyone I know. I can't afford to have an off-night. I get careless one night and I'm in the hospital. Again, it's a lot harder for Buzz. He gets sloppy one night and his career is over. The difference is those guys want to punish me. They want to destroy Buzz!"

The element of tragedy is one Brett at first refused to acknowledge. He claimed he's been honest and the proposition made no sense. Pacing the room, he dared the journalist to show any reason for his theory. Before the reporter could answer, Brett sank in a chair,



Sawyer and Wayne are together now, but how long can they defend themselves against the outside pressures?

placed his face in his hands, and whispered his greatest fear.

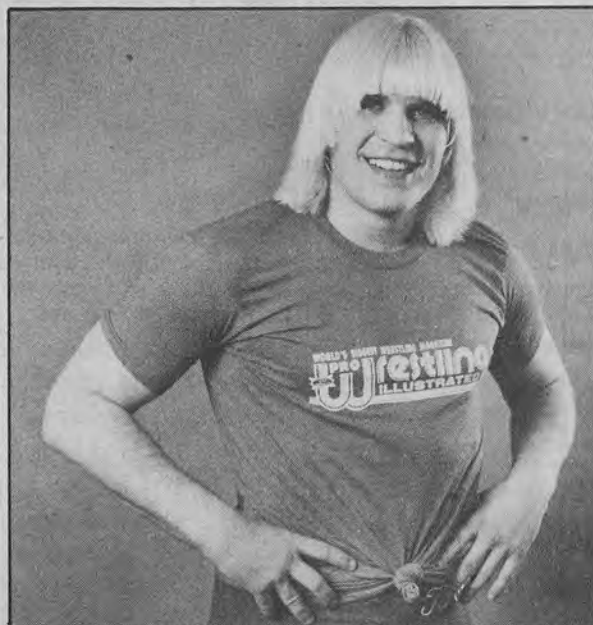
"Sure, I can see what's happening," he said in a voice that could barely be heard. "Buzz and I are like two people against the world. I'm slowly losing the trust of my friends. Maybe it won't be permanent, but you can never know. Asking my friends to trust Buzz is an act of loyalty I can't expect from them, at least not now. These are very dangerous times. If I lose my friends, I'll be against the world. So will Buzz. I don't know what kind of wrestler that will make me.

"There's one thing I do know. I won't turn on Buzz no matter what happens. If it means losing my friends, so be it. If it means turning into a rulebreaker to survive, I'll survive. But I won't cut off my brother to please my friends, the wrestling establishment, or anyone else. That's what my life looks like right now. I didn't want it this way, but that's what I'm ready to live with. Let this serve as a warning to my friends and everyone else."

The journalist left Brett still sitting with his head in his hands. The young man didn't say anything when the journalist spoke his farewells. Brett had a lot on his mind. Through no fault of his own, Brett Wayne finds himself forced to battle against the world if that's the dead man's hand fate deals him. □

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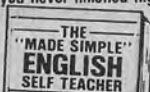
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TITO SANTANA

(Continued from page 33)



Santana applies an armbar on Burke and contemplates his next move (above left). Burke aims his right fist at Santana's head but catches only Tito's shoulder (above right). Even though Burke's Canadian North American title was not at stake, this was one of Santana's most important wins ever.

heavyweight champion once, so that is a title that he could earn. There are many other titles within Santana's grasp. Each one would keep him from wrestling in WWF arenas. That's going right for the

commissioners' pocketbook. As one scientific wrestler, who wishes to remain anonymous, says, "I don't know if he did it on purpose, but it would be the smartest accident I've ever seen. The WWF of-



Still feeling the effects of the tough match, Tito accepts the best wishes of his newfound fans. Tito built an instant following north of the border.

ficials are going crazy. They want to keep Tito, but a title shot would break their first commandment: Thou shalt not let a scientific champion wrestle a scientific challenger. The promoters are having conniptions. I can't wait to see how they twist with this one. Hell, even Backlund thinks it's a great idea."

That's true. When asked if he thought Tito was blackmailing the officials, Bob's face broke into a sly grin and he said, "I wouldn't call it blackmail. It's more like intelligent business practice. If I were in his shoes, I'd hope I'd be that intelligent. Also, it's not impossible to blackmail somebody to do something for his own good. I'm ready to wrestle any challenger of any type. It's the officials who make the matches."

As for Tito, when asked if he had ulterior motives in taking the Toronto match, he looks innocent and says, "I wouldn't dream of doing something like that to the WWF." Then he laughs and adds, "It would be interesting if I did get a title shot out of this, wouldn't it?"

It would be more than interesting to several other wrestlers languishing in the WWF, not able to get a title shot. If Tito's plan works and he gets to wrestle Backlund, others will come up with their own strategies to get challenges. The WWF could be plunged into chaos.

When Tito is asked about that, he shakes his head and says, "I don't want to hurt wrestling or the honor of the WWF title. I have great respect for it and Bob Backlund. This doesn't mean I won't do what's best for my career. If I'm responsible for shaking things up, maybe they should be shaken up. We don't know what's going to happen."

You can bet a lot of wrestlers are paying attention. To them, Tito will be either a hero or the one who proves they have to move on. What that will mean to the WWF is anybody's guess, but nobody is guessing it will be good. ☐

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MEET THE AUTHORS

GAVIN FROST, B.Sc., Ph.D., D.D., is Archbishop of the Church of Wicca, New Bern, North Carolina with national headquarters in Salem, Missouri, branches in several states and worldwide membership. He is Marshal of the Gold Star of England, with the right to wear the Saffron Robe and one of the very few Witches in the Western Hemisphere privileged to wear the authentic mark of initiation on his wrist. Although descended from a long line of mystics and scholars, and formerly a Vice-President and Director of International Operations for major aerospace companies, he prefers to be thought of as a humble teacher.

Mrs. YVONNE FROST, A.A., D.D., with her husband Gavin Frost, devotes her time to giving private instruction and publishing *Survival*, the newsletter of the Church of Wicca, of which she is a Bishop.

Articles by or about Gavin and Yvonne Frost have appeared in such national publications as *Midnight* and the *National Enquirer*.

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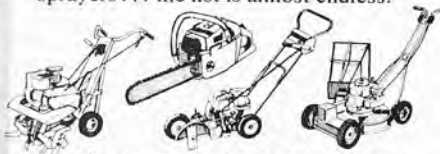
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